

A HISTORY OF BUFORD, COLORADO



by: Ricki Buckles

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Acknowledgments

This book is dedicated to my husband Dave Buckles and our family. Through their love, support, and encouragement I have finally finished. I can only send out a great thank you for my Jean "Myrtle" Humbert and Hazel Rosenlund for their love, support, and kindness all these years. They first got me going on the road to doing research and from the beginning it has become something I truly love to do. Thanks also to all those out there for pictures, letters, their time, and their support. Hopefully some of the history of this upper area can be found here in this book about Buford, and in my later book, A History of the Upper White, which is almost completed as well. So much information out there, and though my net was thrown wide, much has slipped by to be caught another day.

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Meeker was originally established as a military post in 1879 by a man named Merritt, of the United States Army. It was built into one of the most efficient and complete military posts to be found. By 1883, the Government began the removal of the soldiers from the area. On August 13, 1883 an auction was held and the buildings sold off. It was considered a ready made town, and thought to be a good investment. Unfortunately, very few showed up to buy, and those that did bought the buildings for very little. These new settlers now owned a town, and after the last of the soldiers marched out, they decided to name it Meeker. By 1885, the town was incorporated and William H Clark was elected the first mayor. Located in the White River Museum, Meeker, Colorado were the following names.

FOUNDERS OF MEEKER 1885

Henry J. Hay; James L. McHatton, President of the Town site;
William H. Clark, First Mayor; Frank E. Sheridan; Samuel Fairfield;
Ed P. Wilber; G. Dana Thayer, Town Clerk; John C. Davis;
J. W. Hugus; W. Harry Goff; George S. Hazen; Mrs. J. C. (Annie) Wright
Thomas Baker; George S. Allsebrook; Newton Major;
A. J. Gregory; Charles Dunbar; James Kendall; Charles S. Attix

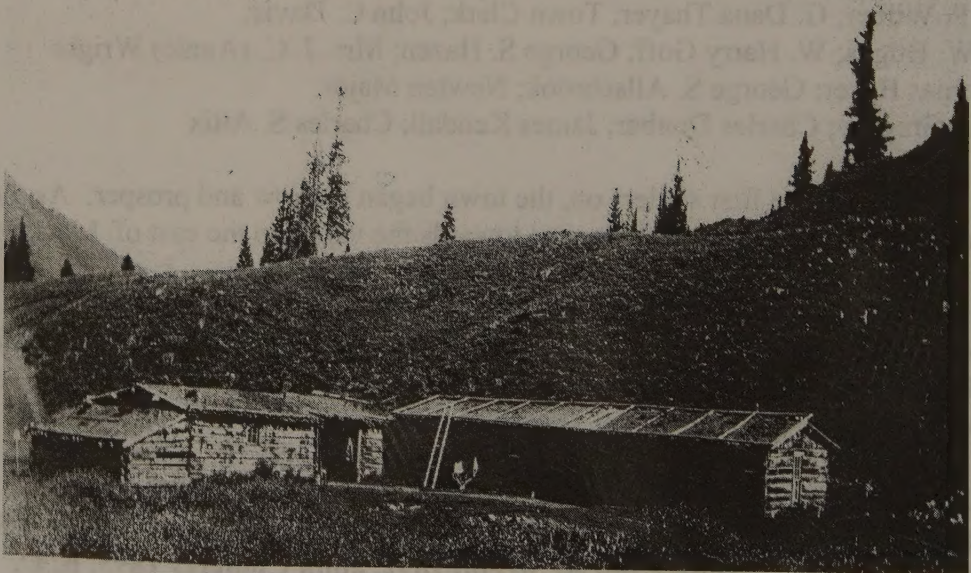
From these first settlers on, the town began to grow and prosper. As the area filled up, many turned their eyes towards the valley to the east of Meeker; the White River valley.

It was known that there were a handful of settlers, in the upper White River area, as early as 1883. However, the first ones to go and patent their land, and the years that they patented their land in the upper-White River country, are shown below:

William Forbes 1893, William McNutt 1892, Ora Watson 1893, Charles E. Pease 1892, Marion S. Hooper 1895, Hugh Jones 1895, Michael Snider 1893, James B. Nimerick 1891, Conrad Strebb 1892, John Cloherty 1893, E. C. Smith 1893, John Dunn 1893, Mary Dunn 1894, Henry Peterson 1895, Edward EXA 1893, Leon Marcott 1895, John Daum 1888 (?), John Henry LaKamp 1888, W. E. Hedy 1894, Joseph Peltier 1895, William Carver, 1895, Ewin Amick, 1895, Fredrick Kracht 1895, Charles Smith 1895, Marcus Beckman 1894.

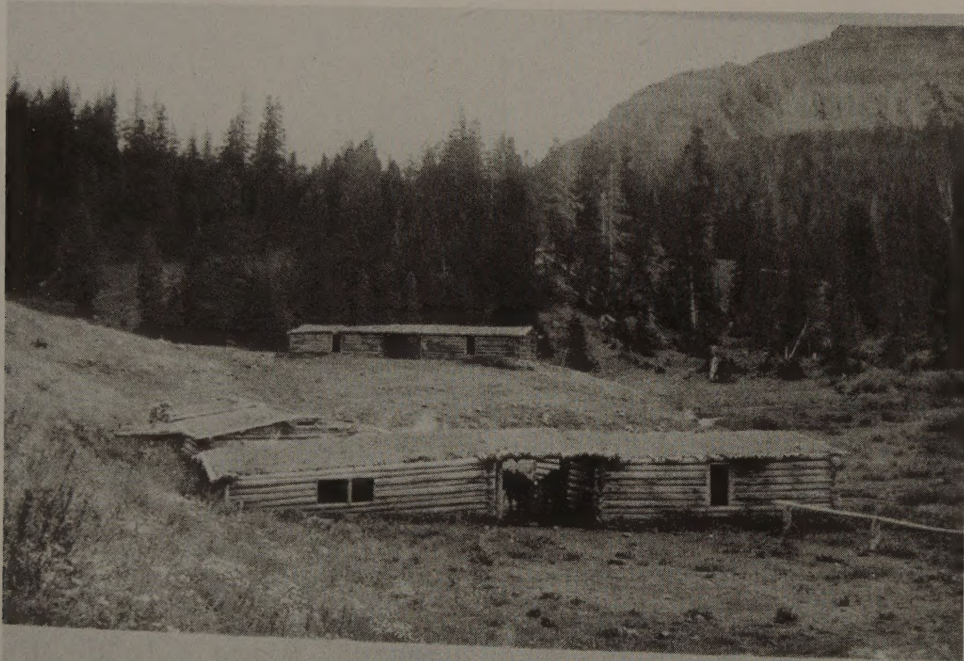
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What really started to draw the interest of the public to the upper country, were the Lodges that had been built, and were now drawing people in from all over the countryside. The first buildings at Trappers Lake, called the Forest Inn began as early as 1884 when Mr. William Pattison conducted a family resort there until 1893 when the next owners took over. Cabins were built over on the east side of the lake near where the remaining Forest Ranger cabin still stands. Cement foundations can still be seen in the grass nearby. Some early pictures of the cabins at Trappers Lake are as follows:



(Early pictures of the cabins by Trappers Lake.)

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Old Cabins
Trappers

These cabins no longer remain but, by the Forest Rangers cabin some of the old foundations can still be seen.

Marvine Lodge had grown to such importance that there was barely a weekly newspaper printed that did not have a article praising the now popular resort. It was even stated that if you had not stayed at Marvine Lodge then you basically had never been anywhere. The Meeker Herald had many articles to describe the Lodge some of which follow:

June 22, 1889

“Among the summer resorts to be found in the Rockies, we know of none which can compare with Marvine Lakes and immediate vicinity.”

August 18, 1894

“The Marvine Lodge is doing a rushing business this season. The past few weeks the place has been crowded with people from all parts of the union and this will continue until the snow flies.”

Marvine later became a post office as well as becoming a fish hatchery, supplying the county with fish for its' streams and lakes. The Meeker Herald printed the article:

June 22, 1895

“A Washington dispatch announces the establishment of a post office at Marvine Lodge with William Wells as postmaster.”

In This Is What I Remember Vol. II, page 437, printed by the Rio Blanco Historical Society, Inc., Meeker, Colorado was this information:

“In 1908, Mr. Ball had been instrumental in securing the first fish hatchery for Rio Blanco County. It was built at Marvine Lodge, and Mr. Ball gave generously of his resources and time maintaining it and arranging for the distribution of fish to the streams and lakes of the county.” Below are pictures of Marvine Lodge and the stage that ran from Meeker to Marvine, with stops in-between.

Marvine Lodge had become a very popular resort and drew people from all over the United States. It was not long that other settlers began to see an opportunity for themselves and decided to open their own lodges.

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MARVINE LODGE. Picture taken in the late 1890's or early 1900's. People on the left believed to be Billy Green, his wife, Cora, and their daughter, Isabelle. Billy Green was the cowboy, tourist guide, and caretaker for the lodge. [The Greens spent one winter at Marvin Lodge. They had a home in Meeker at what is now 1030 Market.] Source: Jennie Spence.

(Picture located in *This Is What I Remember* Vol. II, page 438, published by the Rio Blanco County Historical Society, Inc., Meeker, Colorado.)

The following picture was sent and on the back it states that it was the stage from Meeker to Marvin Lodge.

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As more and more families began to settle in the upper country, the first school houses for their children began to be built as well. In that early time period the area was just called the upper-White region. Thus, the naming of the

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area began with a school teacher and the children.

In the researching of how Buford came by its' name, the only information to be found was located at the White River Museum. This is what was stated there: "The town of Buford in Rio Blanco County was named for the Confederate General by Mrs. Cloherty, a local school teacher, from a history book her class was studying at the time."

The Confederate General was John Buford. As to why they were so interested in him, to the point where they chose to name the school after him, is unknown. It is presumed that a name was needed for the new school house and the choice was given to the children to select a name. Thus, Mrs. Cloherty and her class made the decision. One would probably have never suspected at that moment, that the entire area would hold its' name, and be on the map today.

The time period for this school was found in the research done by Robert Buckles, when he was gathering information in later years, for the Buford Community Center. His information, obtained from the Rio Blanco Court House records, are as follows:

"On May 15, 1889 the upper White River school district was organized. Mr. Welty was the president, Mr. Peterson the treasurer, and Mr. Fowler the secretary. The lower part of the building was used for classes and the upper for family enjoyment." Some of the research was done by the late Robert Buckles, to help in establishing the first school and thus the first naming of the Buford area."

"It is known that at this time the property was owned by Joseph Peltier. On a deed made "April 10, 1902 between Joseph Peltier, county of Rio Blanco state of Colorado, of the first part and School District No. 7 known as Buford school district Rio Blanco county, state of Colorado party of the second part described lot etc.. commencing at the corner #1 center of section 18 Township 1 South Range 91 West legal description...

This conveyance is made with the understanding the land described shall be devoted or used for school and educational purposes only and when abandoned same land revert back to party of the first part." Warranty Deed record Book 27 Rio Blanco County page 77. Peltier Grantor---Buford School District #7 Grantee."

This property was later sold to William Budge. The property then went to Robert and Odelle Buckles, and now belongs to the YZ Wheeler ranch. In later years due to flooding by the river, the school was moved to it's present location

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and a the second story was removed and added to the side of the building.

The clearest picture to be found of the old two story school house is shown below:



(Original Buford School House)

Taken from The Meeker Herald is a reference to the school and a date to help establish its' history.

July 26, 1890

“August 1st dance at Buford School House.”

May 17, 1890

“Buford Post Office was opened for public business.”

May 24, 1890

Buford Post Office

“Special services on the Meeker and Buford mail route was inaugurated on Tuesday of this week. The services will be semi-weekly, leaving Meeker every Tuesday and Saturday morning at 8:00 A. M.

Dave Steel, who has the contract will run a buckboard for the accommodation of passengers traveling up and down the river. In addition to his duties as mail carrier, Mr. Steel will run a road house where the traveling public will find comfortable quarters and sumptuous entertainment. It is Dave’s aim to make his place general headquarters for fishing and hunting parties.”

By the end of the 1890’s people began to pour into the upper White River area. A school was established near Marvine called the Marvine School House and another built up South Fork that later joined with the Buford School House. Down lower a school called the Elk Creek School was built. It would have been located near where Sleepy Cat Lodge is now located and still stands, though a private residence.

Since it was Mrs. Cloherty and the school children that named the school house, the entire area surrounding the school became known as Buford, their importance to the very beginning of Buford is unquestionable. Mr. John P. Cloherty and his family were not on the 1880 United States Federal Census for Rio Blanco County. The entire 1890 United States Federal Census for the United States was destroyed by a fire and very few states had copies of their own.

Thus, it is not known exactly when the Cloherty family arrived in the upper-

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White River country. It is known when they purchased land and this land was located on the South side of the White River from where the Buford Store is now located. The property belonging to the Cloherty family is across the river on County Road 10.

Today all that remains are a few of the old pine trees near the river. The property itself is just a field. On the other side of the road, on the Buford property one can still see where the old bridge had crossed the river.

At one time the road went up the river on the south side and crossed the South Fork river following the hills there. Then it crossed the river behind where the present Buford Store is located.

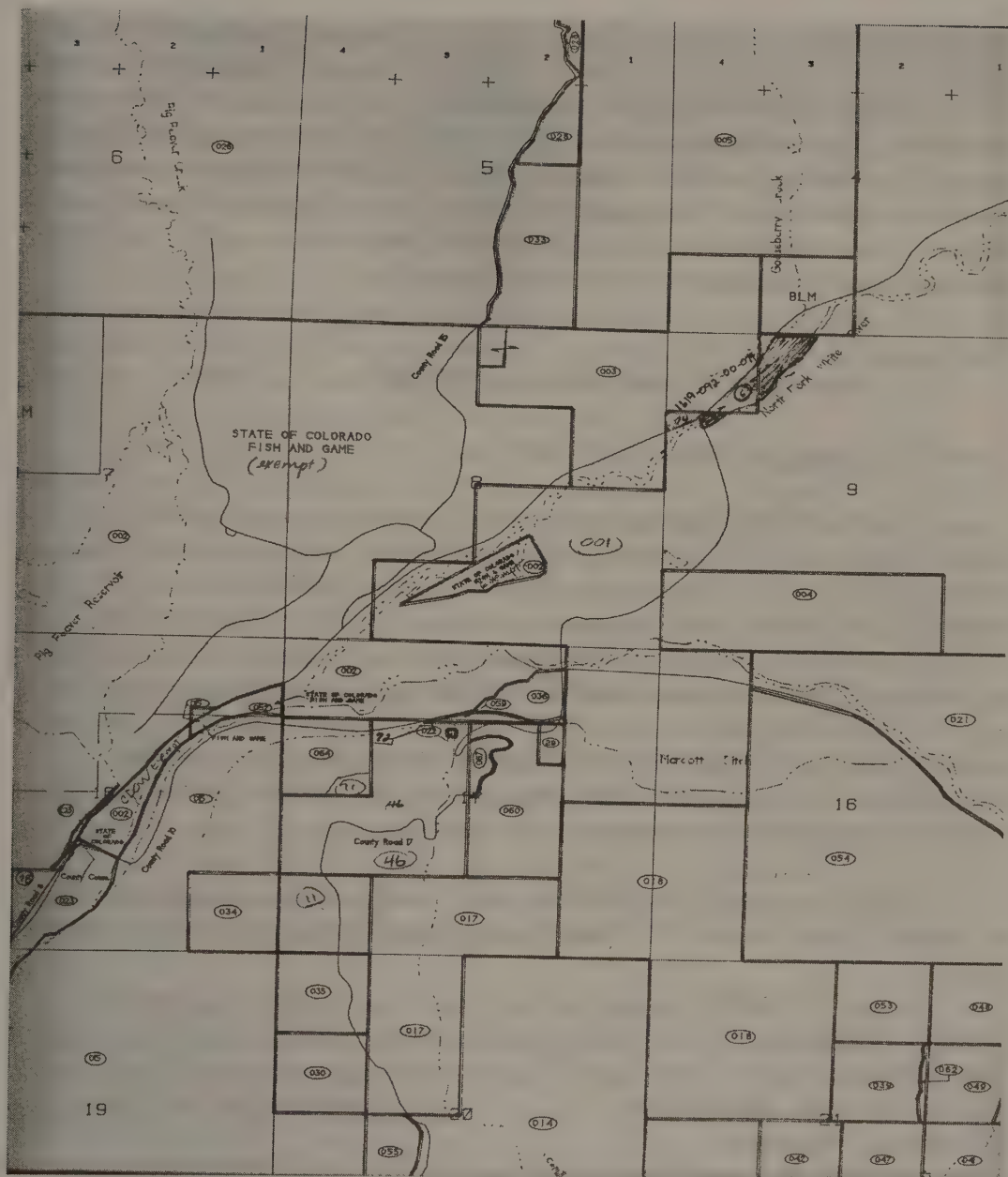
Below are the land records for John Cloherty and the date they were recorded:

John Cloherty 4 21/1893 Book 5 page 158 160 acres Located section 9 #7
Located in Township 1 South Range 91 West. (The property was owned by Minnewa Bell and the known owner today is Henry Kravis.)

Following is a map showing this township and range. Buford Store is today located about 20 miles east of Meeker, Colorado on County Road 8.

Township 1 South Range 91 West

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In June of 1897 Mrs. Cloherty passed away. Below is her obituary donated by Greg Berthelson and the library staff, taken from the Meeker Herald, and of file at the Meeker Public Library. Scanned and archived burial record, cited with permission of Saint James' Episcopal Church, Meeker, Colorado, shows: 13 June 1897, Book 1, page 116, line 45 "blood poisoning after childbirth; buried on ranch at Buford. O. E. Ostenson, Rector."

Mrs. John P. Cloherty (Helen) BURIED 13 June 1897

From The Meeker Herald of June 12, 1897:

"As the HERALD was going to press this morning, word reached the office of the death of Mrs. John P. Cloherty of Buford. The cause of death was uremic poisoning. Mrs. Cloherty gave birth to a baby boy last Sunday and symptoms of the dread disease appearing at once. Dr. Bruner was called in Monday and did everything possible to bring about a change, but all to no effect as the trouble had got too much start. A naturally strong constitution carried the patient to 6 o'clock yesterday when death relieved her sufferings. Mrs. Cloherty was a woman well thought of by her Buford friends and neighbors and her untimely death is a sad affair for her bereaved husband and little boy of six. The babe is in good hands and doing as well as can be expected."

After the death of Mrs. Cloherty, Mr. Cloherty sold the property to John R. Bartlett. Found on the 1920 United States Federal Census was the following record:

John P. Cloherty

Age: 60 years

Estimated birth: about 1860

Birthplace: Missouri

Home in 1920: St Louis Ward 25, St Louis (Independent City), Missouri

Home owned: Rented

Martial Status: Widow

Mothers Birthplace: Ireland

Fathers Birthplace: Ireland

Image 538

John R. Cloherty: son age 22

Birthplace: Colorado

Celia Devine: sister age 64

Thus, it can only be assumed that Mr. Cloherty moved to Missouri and still living with him was his son John, whose mother died after his birth. Also with them was his sister, so it is unknown if he went to her for help in raising the baby so long ago. It is unknown where the other son and brother by six years was, in 1920 as he was not on the census with them.

After the passing of Mrs. Cloherty and the property being sold to the Bartlett family, Buford became even more established in the upper White River country, not only in being the post office but, the first store up river. The women sent cream, butter, and produce down on the stage as it was called though in reality they were large freight wagons, to Meeker. In return the freight wagons brought up mail, supplies and groceries. People could also catch a ride into town on these wagons and trips could be made up the river as well.

Located on a document at the White River Museum was the following information:

“The first store was across the river from where the Buford Store is now. It was started in the home of John Bartlett. In 1899, John R. Bartlett purchased the Cloherty ranch, after the death of Mrs. Cloherty, and Mrs. Bartlett was Post Mistress and ran a Post Office there till it was discontinued on July 12, 1919. The Post Office was once in the Cloherty Ranch home on the North Fork and Mrs. John P. Cloherty was the first Post Mistress there”

Following is a picture of the old Bartlett property with their home and outbuildings. In the years after their leaving there was a fire and this was burned down. The home and buildings were in the east end of the field across from the present day Buford Store and Lodge.

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During this time period the road went on the other side of the river and the bridge crossing the North Fork of the White River was located behind the above home. Today the supports for the bridge can still be seen at the present Buford Store and Lodge. In later years the road was changed to where it is now and crosses in front of the Buford Store. The above home no longer exists due to a fire in later years. However, stones were found on what is now a service road on the hill by where the Bartlett family home once was. It was determined that they were children of the original Bartlett family. (These stones had the names of Mary 1894 and Elizabeth 1897 scratched on them. The sight is now protected and

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fenced off in respect to these graves. At one time it was thought that several years ago, relatives of the Bartlett family came here and it was said they knew about the graves. That they were children who belonged to the Bartlett family who had died and were buried behind the home located there. However, since no records have been found as yet, this is not entirely known.

It is unknown also, where John and Alice Bartlett went, after leaving Buford. Records were found as to their passing. John R. Bartlett passed away August 12, 1942. His wife Alice passed away on January 6, 1942.

Below is the 1900 United States Census to establish the families that now resided up the river from Meeker, Colorado.

CENSUS YEAR: 1900

STATE: COLORADO

COUNTY: Rio Blanco

PRECINCT: 6

ENUMERATION/DIST: 114

MICROFILM#: T623-129 SD

REEL: 51

ENUMERATOR: Sara Carson

ENUMERATION/DATE: June 16, 1900

PAGE NUMBER: 10A

This information can also be found by the public, for additional information, and is transcribed there by Cheryl Rosenlund Coats and proofread by Greg Berthelson.

Name first, (bold print is head of house hold) year born, age, where born, where father was born, where mother was born, occupation.

Brown Edwin, born Oct 1857, age 42, born Illinois, New York, New York,
Farmer

Brown Carrie, Wife, born Apr 1861, age 39, born Illinois, England New York

Archer Edwin, Lodger, born Jan 1854, age 46, Single, born Maine, Maine, Maine,
Carpenter

Warner Albert E, born Sep 1835, age 64, Widow, born New York, Rhode
Island, Rhode Island

Ellison Albert C, born May 1856, age 44, born Wisconsin, Wisconsin,

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Wisconsin, Farmer

Ellison May, Wife, born July 1877, age 22, born Colorado, Ohio, Missouri

Ellison Frances, Daughter, born Nov 1896, age 3, born Colorado, Wisconsin, Colorado

Ellison Alice, Daughter, born July 1899, age 10 mo, born Colorado, Wisconsin, Colorado

Smith Rebecca, S-in-law, born Dec 1879, age 20, Single, born Colorado, Ohio, Missouri, Housekeeper

Barrett Robert, Servant, born Aug 1867, age 32, Single, born Iowa, New York, Iowa

Vance Robert, Servant, born Aug 1872, age 27, Single, born N. Carolina, N. Carolina, N. Carolina

Dunn John, born Jan 1851, age 49, Single, born England, England, England Farmer

Holland Timothy, born Sep 1852, age 47, born New York, Ireland, Ireland, Farmer

Holland Mary, Wife, born May 1852, age 48, born New York, England, Ireland

Holland Katie, Daughter, born Feb 1878, age 22, Single, born New York, New York, New York

Holland John A, Son, born Mar 1888, age 12, born Colorado, New York, New York, At School

Warner Walter, born May 1871, age 29, Single, born Colorado, Illinois, Maine, Farmer

Arnold Stephan, born Feb 1850, age 50, Married, born Ohio, New Jersey, New York, Day Laborer Camp

Arnold Phillip, Son, born July 1892, age 7, born Colorado, Ohio, Ohio

Clark James B, Partner, born June 1880, age 19, Single, born N. Carolina, N. Carolina, N. Carolina, Day Laborer

LaKamp John Henry, born Apr 1826, age 74, born Germany, Germany, Germany, Emigrated 1838, Farmer

LaKamp Christina, Wife, born Nov 1830, age 69, Germany, Germany, Germany, Emigrated 1841

Stith Richard, Lodger, born June 1856, age 43, Single, born Missouri, Kentucky, Kentucky

Steele David, born Apr 1855, age 45, born Iowa, Ohio, Ireland, Farmer

Steele Laura, Wife, born Apr 1858, age 42, born Ohio, Germany, Germany

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Steele Clara, Daughter, born Aug 1879, age 20, Single, born Nebraska, Iowa, Ohio, Teacher

Steele Ella, Daughter, born May 1891, age 9, born Nebraska, Iowa, Ohio

Herrick William, born May 1824, age 76, Widow, born New York, New York, Connecticut, Camp

Davie William, born July 1838, age 61, born New York, New York, New York, Farmer

Davie Nancy, Wife, born May 1841, age 59, born Michigan, Michigan, Michigan

Bingham George, Servant, born Apr 1882, age 18, Single, born Utah, Pennsylvania, Utah

Peltier Joseph, born Apr 1860, age 40, born Colorado, Canada Fr, Canada Fr, Farmer

Peltier Ida M, Wife, born Sep 1869, age 30, born Colorado, Ohio ,Ohio

Peltier Grace, Daughter, born Jan 1892, age 8, born Colorado, Colorado, Colorado

Peltier Myrtle, Daughter, born Aug 1895, age 4, born Colorado, Colorado, Colorado

Peltier Edgar, Son, born Nov 1899, age 7 mo, born Colorado, Colorado, Colorado

Frahm Johas, born Aug 1868, age 31, Single, born Germany, Germany, Germany, Emigrated 1888, Farmer

Frahm, Marcus, Brother, born May 1881, age 19, Single, Germany, Germany, Germany, Emigrated 1896

Vogleman Charles, Partner, born Feb 1864, age 36, Single, born Germany, Germany, Germany, Immigrated 1875, Blacksmith

Hazzard George T, Partner, born Mar 1844, age 56, Single, born Kentucky, Kentucky, Kentucky, Blacksmith

Nellson Nels, born Nov 1868, age 30, Single, born Sweden, Sweden, Sweden, Emigrated 1890, Farmer

Ward Levi, born July 1863, age 36, born Missouri, Kentucky, Kentucky

Smith (marked out) Pearl, Wife, born Sep 1876, age 23, born Michigan, Ohio, New York

Tucker Beatrice, Servant, born July 1869, age 30, Married, born New Jersey, Vermont, Connecticut, Cook

Tucker Ruth E, Lodger, born July 1895, age 4, born Colorado, Illinois, New Jersey

Shroyer Frank, Lodger, born Apr 1875, age 25, Single, born Michigan, Ohio,

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Ohio, At School

Smith Charles, born Jan 1848, age 52, Single, born Missouri, Norway,
Unknown, Hunter

Shepard John, born Sep 1871, age 28, Single, born Virginia, Virginia, Virginia,
Farmer

Hahn George, Servant, born Aug 1874, age 25, Single, born Illinois, Illinois,
Illinois, Farm laborer

Hahn Lewis A, Servant, born Mar 1879, age 21, Single, born Illinois, Illinois,
Illinois Farmer Laborer

Tolliver James M, Servant, born Jan 1877, age 23, Married, born Tennessee,
Tennessee, Pennsylvania, Day Laborer

Tolliver Lucy, Servant, born Nov 1878, age 21, Married, born Utah, Mississippi,
Utah, Cook

Tolliver Florence M, Lodger, born Aug 1899, age 9 mo, born Colorado,
Tennessee, Utah

Lisonbee Hiram, Lodger, born Jan 1891, age 9, born Utah, Mississippi, Utah

Patterson Solon C., born Dec 1854, age 45, Single, born Vermont, Vermont,
Vermont, Farmer

Hahn Robert, Servant, born Sep 1864, age 35, Single, born Illinois, Illinois,
Illinois

Fitzgerald James, Servant, born Oct 1845, age 54, Married, born Ohio, New York,
New York, Day Laborer

Fitzgerald Catherine, Servant, born Mar 1860, age 40, Married, born Nevada,
Illinois, Illinois, House keeper

Sessions Frank, Lodger, born Sep 1884, age 15, born Utah, Arizona, Nevada, At
School

Sessions Violet, Lodger, born May 1889, age 11, born Utah, Arizona, Nevada, At
School

Wakeman Washington, born Nov 1834, age 66, Single, born New York, New
York, New York, Farmer

Johnson James, born Apr 1864, age 36, Single, born Missouri, Kentucky,
Kentucky, Dealer Horses

Bartlett John R, born Jan 1863, age 37, born Ohio, Vermont, New York, Farmer

Bartlett Alice, Wife, born Jan 1867, age 33, born Iowa, Ireland, Ireland

Bartlett Clifford, Son, born May 1892, age 8, born Iowa, Ohio, Iowa

Bartlett Annabel, Daughter, born June 1898, age 1, born Colorado, Ohio, Iowa

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Gibson William, B-in-law, born Mar 1872, age 28, Single, born Iowa, Ireland, Ireland, Farmer

Pitt George, Servant, born Jan 1872, age 28, Single, born Wisconsin, Wisconsin, Wisconsin

Haynes Jennie, Servant, born Nov 1875, age 25, Single, born Michigan, Indiana, Indiana, Housekeeper

Carson David, born Feb 1862, age 38, born Kentucky, Tennessee, Kentucky, Farmer

Carson Emma, Wife, born June 1863, age 36, born| Indiana, Indiana, Iowa

Carson Alice, Daughter, born Sep 1882, age 17, Single, born Colorado, Kentucky, Indiana, At School

Carson David, Son, born Nov 1887, age 12, born Colorado, Kentucky, Indiana, At School

Carson Clarence, Son, born Dec 1892, age 8, born Colorado, Kentucky, Indiana, At School

Carson Fay, Daughter, born May 1897, age 3, born Colorado, Kentucky, Indiana

Morris Lee, Servant, born Aug 1865, age 34, Single, born Colorado, Texas, Texas, Miner- ores

Forbes William, born Oct 1836, age 63, Widow, born Pennsylvania, Ireland, Scotland, Farmer

Forbes Renn, Son, born Sept 1883, age 16, born Iowa, Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania

Nimerick James, born May 1823, age 77, born Illinois, Pennsylvania, England

Nimerick Elizabeth, Wife, born May 1826, age 74, born Illinois, Maryland, Virginia

Nimerick Cornelius, Son, born June 1856, age 43, Single, born Illinois, Illinois, Illinois

Nimerick James B, Son, born Feb 1858, age| 42, Single, born Illinois, Illinois, Illinois Farmer

Nimerick John C, Son, born May 1860, age 40, Single, born Illinois, Illinois, Illinois, Farmer

Stealey Guy M, nephew, born Aug 1877, age 22, Single, born Colorado, Kentucky, Illinois

Pattison William, born Jan 1853, age 47, born Illinois, Unknown, Unknown, Farmer

Pattison Laura L., Wife, born Aug 1860, age 39, born Virginia, Virginia, Virginia

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Pattison Estella P, Daughter, born Nov 1884, age 16, born Colorado, Illinois, Virginia, At School

Pattison Linton O, Son, born July 1886, age 13, born Colorado, Illinois, Virginia, At School

Stone George W, born May 1844, age 56, Single, born Maine, Maine, New Jersey, Horse Dealer Camp

Dunn John, Partner, born Mar 1858, age 42, Single, born Maine, Ireland, Ireland, Forest Ranger Camp

Gibler Harry, Partner, born Feb 1877, age 23, Single, born Kansas, Illinois, Wisconsin, Forest Ranger

Rawson Henry, born Feb 1862, age 38, born New York, England, England, Farmer

Rawson Isabella, Wife, born Mar 1862, age 38, born Kansas, Germany, Massachusetts

Rawson Beulah, Daughter, born July 1895, age 4, born Oklahoma, Kansas, New York

Wilber James E, born Sept 1850, age 49, born Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania, Stock Raiser Camp

Wilber Rella, Wife, born Feb 1854, age 46, born Pennsylvania, N. Hampshire, Pennsylvania

Bailey Thomas, born Sept 1853, age 46, born Missouri, Kentucky, Kentucky, Farmer

Bailey Kunie, Wife, born Mar 1855, age 45, born Germany, Germany, Germany

Bailey Marie, Daughter, born Aug 1887, age 12, born Colorado, Missouri, Germany, At School

Bailey Joseph, Son, born June 1889, age 10, born Colorado, Missouri, Germany, At School

Bailey Emma, Daughter, born Mar 1891, age 9, born Colorado, Missouri, Germany

Baker Peter, born Aug 1866, age 33, born Iowa, Germany, Germany

Baker Amelia, Wife, born Nov 1867, age 32, born Indiana, Indiana, Indiana

Baker Everett, Son, born Oct 1890, age 9, born Iowa, Iowa, Indiana

Baker Harry, Son, born May 1894, age 6, born Iowa, Iowa, Indiana

Baker Gracie, Daughter, born Apr 1896, age 4, born Iowa, Iowa, Indiana

Hall Otto, Lodger, born Sept 1877, age 22, Single, born Utah, Utah, Idaho

Horn William, Lodger, born May 1872, age 27, Single, born Missouri,

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Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania

Crook John, born Nov 1860, age 40, born W Virginia, Virginia, W Virginia, Farmer

Crook Hannah, Wife, born Apr 1875, age 25, born Colorado, Sweden, Sweden

Crook Ernest, Son, born May 1898, age 2, born Colorado, W Virginia, Colorado

Pearson Harry, B-in-law, born Sept 1882, age 17, born Colorado, Sweden, Sweden

Found on the Colorado Business Directory for the early 1900's was the following information:

1911 Colorado Business Directory, Buford, Rio Blanco County

BUFORD. Post office in Rio Blanco county. No business. Population 5.

BARTLETT ALICE, postmaster

By 1919 things again were changing up river. The following article was found in The Meeker Herald.

July 12, 1919

An Old Post Office Discontinued

“A Buford citizen sends us the following interesting item:

The Buford post office, Rio Blanco County, is no more. A few days ago, by order of the Department, all of the effects of the office were brought to Meeker on the Marvine stage, and all Buford mail in the future will be taken care of by the local office. Now, this does not mean that the upper White river residents will be without mail facilities, as the Meeker-Marvine star route will continue indefinitely, and there will be very little inconvenience, if any; although the Buford office was very handy for the obtaining money orders and the like.

The passing of this office recalls to all old-timers a thread of interesting history. The office of Buford was established over thirty years ago at what is now the Budge ranch, with Mrs. David Steel as the postmistress. A number of years later the office was removed to the Cloherty ranch on the north branch, where it

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remained to the day of its discontinuance, Mrs. John P. Cloherty being the postmistress. In 1899 John R. Bartlett purchased the Cloherty ranch, shortly after the death of Mrs. Cloherty, and Mrs. Bartlett succeeded in charge of the office and held it to the day of its closing.

During the thirty years the mail was carried tri-weekly by a number of contractors, among them being Joe Peltier, Eugene Gilley, Joe Lutkiewicz, Spurlock, Abe Denton, Andy Robertson, Will Tyler, Joe Clinard, George Thayer, Jim Buchanan, and Will Orten now on the job.

Five years ago the line of the route was changed from the mouth of Big Beaver creek to the north branch instead of around by the south branch, and the South Fork patrons were inconvenienced to some extent; but a move is now on foot to resume the old route, in which event all the south branch people can get their mail at the White-Bear ranch, and this route avoids all the steep hills on the north branch from Big Beaver up to the intersection.

Good-bye, Buford, good-bye!"

"The business card of A. J. Denton, one of the Meeker-Buford stage drivers was donated to the museum by Roy Cure, along with family pictures. It is a real souvenir of the days when the Meeker-Buford stage was the life line for the settlers of upper White River.

It was the stage driver who brought groceries, other much needed supplies, and fellowship, as well as the eagerly awaited letter. And from time to time, he carried passengers--tourists and family visitors.

The next day on the return trip to Meeker, the driver, on occasion, took produce for the housewives, along his route, to Meeker to be sold through A. Oldland & Co.'s general merchandise store. (Oldlands was a true source of life to the pioneer community.) This writer remembers running along on short legs by her mother's side as many pounds of butter were carried to the gate to meet the stage."

Meeker-Buford Stage Line

By Margaret Smith Isaac

Meeker-Buford Stage Line

General Passenger and Express

Tourist Route to Trapper's Lake, the
Marvine Lakes, and the Upper White
River. Best Accomodations Provid-
ed for Travelers at Buford Terminal

Stage Leaves Meeker Monday, Wednesday & Friday

A. J. Denison, Prop.

Meeker, Colorado
Buford 'Phone, No., Black 935

The above picture was in This Is What I Remember Vo. II page 440. The following information was also taken from this book on pages 440 and 441 by Margaret Smith Isaac.

It was during the summer of 1917 that it is believed, that Kirk Shaw began speaking to L. L. Offerle, about what business could be made in the Buford area.

The following document is a contract between F. E. Whitney and Lawrence L. Offerle. The contract is dated July 2, 1917. In reading the document, obtained at the Rio Blanco Court House, it contains the information that Mr. Whitney seems to be buying out Mr. Offerle. It would appear that this transaction concerned Elk Lodge located on the North Fork of the White River. It is believed that this was Mr. L. L. Offerle's first steps towards letting go of other business interests so he could proceed with the Buford Store and Lodge.

A History of Buford, Colorado

CONTRACT.

F. E. Whitney
to
Lawrence L. Offerle

THIS AGREEMENT, Made and entered into this second day of July, A. D. 1917,
by and between Lawrence L. Offerle, party of the first part, and F. E.
Whitney, party of the second part;

WITNESSETH; That for and in consideration of the sum of Seven Hundred Fifty-one and 95/100 (\$751.95) Dollars to be paid by the party of the second part to the party of the first part, and the payment of which to be secured as hereinafter set forth, and of the further covenants and conditions hereinafter contained to be kept and performed by the party of the second part, the said party of the first part hereby agrees to sell, and by these presents does sell, assign and transfer unto the said party of the second part, her heirs, executors and assigns, all of the interest and title of the said party of the first part in and to all lease interests, livestock, household and camp goods and other property belonging to and owned by the partnership of Whitney and Offerle, and purchased and used by the parties hereto as co-partners for the purpose of opening, conducting and operating Elk Lodge on the North Fork of White River.

In consideration of the sale of the interest owned by the party of the first part in the partnership property to the said party of the second part as aforesaid, the said party of the second part hereby promises and agrees to assume and pay all obligations, indebtedness and accounts contracted by and on behalf of, or for the use and benefit of the co-partnership of Whitens and Offerly as aforesaid; and to save and keep harmless the said party of the first part therefrom, and to protect and guard him, the said party of the first part, from any and all expense, loss, or liability on account thereof.

Further, in consideration of the sale of the said interest of the party of the first part to the party of the second part as aforesaid, the said party of the second part hereby promises and agrees to make, execute and deliver to the said party of the first part his promissory note in due form, of even date herewith, for and in the principal sum of Seven Hundred Fifty-one and 95/100 (\$751.95) Dollars, payable on or before September first, 1918, and to become absolutely due on that date; said note to be without interest until maturity, after which it shall draw interest at the rate of ten per cent (10%) per annum.

And the said party of the second part, being desirous of not only securing the prompt and full payment of said promissory note according to its tenor and effect, but also of indemnifying and saving harmless the said party of the first part for and on account of any assignment of said note, and also against any of the joint partnership obligations and debts hereinabove mentioned, assumed, and to be paid by the said party of the second part, hereby given, grants and acknowledges to the said party of the first part, his heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, a binding valid and absolute first lien upon and against the following described stock, goods and effects, to-wit:

A History of Buford, Colorado

Two cows, branded; ~~XH~~ ; On Brown mare, named "Dolly", branded ~~EH~~ E/S ~~LD~~ ; One mare known as the Craig mare, named "Bertie", branded -V- ~~LD~~ ; One dark brown horse named "Nig" branded /-V ~~LD~~ : On white horse named "George", branded _____; One light bay horse named "Cecil", branded _____ ; One strawberry roan horse, named "Slocum" branded H- ~~LD~~ : One sorrel horse, named "Cross L" branded L~~R~~ ~~LD~~ : On bay horse, named "Teter", branded O~~V~~ ~~LD~~ : On light bay horse, (Spavined) Named "Crip" brand IN ~~LD~~ : One Model T (1915) Ford Touring car; One spring wagon; One set harness; Nine saddles and bridles; Twelve saddle blankets; and all household, summer hotel and camp bedding, chairs, stoves, and other furniture, cooking utensils and appliances bought for and used in and about Elk Lodge; all of said property being located and kept at Meeker, Colorado, and Elk Lodge on the North Fork of White River, Colorado.

And the said party of the second part hereby agrees not to attempt to mortgage, sell or remove said property, not any part thereof, during the life of this agreement, without the written consent of the party of the first part being first had and obtained.

It is Mutually Agreed that the said party of the second part shall be entitled to the possession, use and benefit of said stock, goods and articles at all times; Provided and Except, However, that in case of the failure of said party of the second part to pay said note when due; or to save harmless and indemnify the said party of the first part for and on account of the joint partnership obligations and indebtedness of the parties hereto; or to in any other ^{wise} ~~his~~ make default in the performance of any of the covenants or conditions hereof by him to be performed; then the party of the first part may take immediate possession of said described property, and the whole thereof, and after fifteen (15) days notice may sell the same under the lien hereby created, granted and given, and from the proceeds of said sale retain the balance due him on said note; together with any amount or amounts which he may have been obliged to pay towards the liquidation of partnership indebtedness and for which he has not been reimbursed by the said party of the second part; and also all charges and costs of such sale; ~~any~~ any balance thereafter remaining to go to the said party of the second part.

It is Further Mutually Agreed that the co-partnership of Whitney and Offerle is hereby and now dissolved.

This contract and agreement is made and executed in duplicate, either one of which shall be held and considered as an original hereof for any purpose whatever, and the same shall be held binding and effective upon and against the heirs, executors, administrators and assigns of the respective parties hereto, in the same manner and to the same extent and degree as it is binding and effective upon the original parties

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the said parties have hereunto set their hands and seals the day and year first hereinabove written.

(This agreement consists of four pages,
this one inclusive.)

Lawrence L. Offerle, Party of the First Part
P. E. Whitney Party of the Second Part

For a good and valuable consideration to me in hand paid by R. R. Lindow, receipt of which is ~~has~~ acknowledged, I have assigned, and hereby do assigns unto the said R. R. Lindow, all of my rights, interests, claims and benefits in, to and arising by virtue of the above and foregoing instrument.

Dated at Meeker, Colorado, this 12th day of October, A. D 1917

Lawrence L. Offerle

To better see how the growth of the upper White River area was during 1920 and thoughts of bringing in more business to this now popular area are shown by the 1920 United States Federal census below. One can also see what

A History of Buford, Colorado

the occupations were of the people now located here. This 1920 census taker also made it clearer where these residents live in the upper White River valley.

1920 United States Federal Census

Rio Blanco County, Colorado

Precinct 6 Buford

Sheet No. 277B

Reel No. T625-169

Page No. 8A

Enumerated on January 31, 1920 by George C. Sokol

(Further information can be found on the 1920 census transcribed by Greg Berthelson.)

Head of each household will be in bold print.

Saw Mill Creek Families

Conant Henry R., age 75, single, born Michigan, father born Vermont, mother born Pennsylvania, General Farm Farmer

Sterry Frank M., age 59, widow, born Illinois, father born Scotland, mother born Rhode Island, General Farm Farmer

Sterry Frank R., son, age 27, single, born Colorado, father born Illinois, mother born Colorado, Home Farm Labor

Dodgion Arthur R., age 25, married, born Utah, father born North Carolina, mother born Ireland, General Farm Laborer

Dodgion Daisy D., wife, age 21, born Kansas, father born Missouri, mother born Iowa

Dodgion Christopher L., father, age 71, widow, born North Carolina, father born France mother born Ireland,

Dodgion Francis L.. daughter, 3y 6m, born Colorado

South Fork Families

Swigert John H., age 41, married, born Missouri, father born Missouri, mother born Missouri, General Farm Manager

Swigert Sarah H. ,wife, age 37, born Missouri, father born Illinois, mother born Missouri

A History of Buford, Colorado

Swigert William E., son, age 19, single, born Missouri, General Farm Farmer
Stealey Low W., Hired Man, age 37, single, born Colorado, father born United States, mother born United States, General Farm Cattle Farmer

Johnston Ben C., age 32, married, born Missouri, father born Missouri, mother born Missouri, General Farm Farmer

Johnston Mina L., wife, age 27, born Missouri, father born Kentucky, mother born Missouri

Anderson Hjalman T., age 33, married, born Wisconsin, father born Sweden, mother born Sweden, General Farm Farmer

Patterson Solon C., age 66, widow, born Vermont, father born Vermont, mother born Vermont, General Farm Farmer

Leitch James R. , Partner, age 43, widow, born Missouri, father born Virginia, mother born Missouri, General Farm Farmer

Abbott Richard, age 40, married, born Nebraska, father born Nebraska, mother born Nebraska, General Farm Farmer

Abbott Maud, wife, age 40, born Illinois, father born Indiana, mother born Indiana

Abbott Randolph, Son, age 17, single, born Colorado

Abbott Hazel, Daughter, age 14, born Colorado

Abbott Ruth, Daughter, age 12, born Colorado

Abbott Helen, Daughter, age 5, born Colorado

Abbott Martha, Daughter, age 3, born Colorado

Abbott Robert, Son, age 3, born Colorado

McDonald Carmond, Hired Man, age 17, single, born Colorado, father born Canada, mother born Illinois

Carver William B., age 52, single, born Pennsylvania, father born Pennsylvania, mother born Pennsylvania

Langlas Joseph G., age 38, married, born Iowa

Langlas Sadie, Wife, age 38, born Ohio, father born Ohio, mother born Ohio

Brooks Earl D., age 31, married, born Texas, father born Arkansas, mother born Oklahoma, General Farm Laborer

Brooks Russie V., Wife, age 28, born Texas, father born Texas, mother born Missouri

Brooks Floyd F., Son, age 11, born Texas

Brooks Leonard O., Son, age 9, born Texas

Brooks Arliss M., Son, age 6, born Oklahoma

A History of Buford, Colorado

Brooks Lawrence E., Son, age 3y 1m, born Texas

Brooks Stanley M., Son, age 3m, born Colorado

Pyle William M., age 61, single, born Arkansas, father born Ohio, mother born North Carolina, General Farm Farmer

North Fork Families

Bartlett John R., age 57, married, born Ohio, father born Vermont, mother born New York, General Farm Farmer

Bartlett Alice, Wife, age 53, born Iowa, father born Ireland, mother born Ireland

Bartlett Clifford F., Son, age 27, single, born Iowa, General Farm Laborer

Bartlett Margaretta A., Daughter, age 18, single, born Colorado

Bartlett Glenn W., Son, age 16, born Colorado, General Farm Labor

Smith Alison D., age 54, married, born New York, father born New York, mother born New Jersey, General Farm Farmer

Smith Ella S., Wife, age 59, born Illinois, father born Germany, mother born Germany

Smith Leanor P., Daughter, age 23, single, born Colorado, Grade School Teacher

Smith Elizabeth A., Daughter, age 20, single, born Colorado

Smith Lewis R., Brother, age 41, single, born New York, General Farm Farmer

Waite William C., Hired Man, age 26, single, born Iowa, father born Ohio, mother born Iowa, General Farm Farmer

Lolland Ralph V., Hired Man, age 20, single, born Colorado, father born Delaware, mother born Ohio, General Farm Farmer

Nimerick James B., age 61, single, born Illinois, father born Illinois, mother born Illinois, General Farm Farmer

Nimerick Neil G., Brother, age 63, single, born Illinois, General Farm Farmer

Nimerick John C., Brother, age 59, single, born Illinois, General Farm Farmer

Stealey Guy M., Nephew, age 44, single, born Colorado, father born Kentucky, mother born Illinois, General Farm Farmer

Pattison William F., age 67, married, born Illinois, father born Indiana, mother born Indiana, General Farm Farmer

Pattison Laura L., Wife, age 58, born Virginia, father born Virginia, mother born Virginia

Wyatt John, Boarder, age 71, single, 1860 A, born Canada, father born Canada, mother born Scotland

A History of Buford, Colorado

Wunderly Carl G., age 24, single, born Pennsylvania, father born Germany, mother born Germany, General Farm Laborer

Wunderly George F., Brother, age 20, single, born Pennsylvania

Wunderly Elsie L., Sister, age 15, born Pennsylvania

Fiske Mary E., Boarder, age 19, born Colorado, father born Michigan, mother born Iowa, Grade School Teacher

Dunn Paul C., age 32, married, born Missouri, father born Virginia, mother born Missouri, General Farm Farmer

Dunn Goldie G, Wife, age 30, born Colorado, father born Wisconsin, mother born United States

Dunn Lester O., Son, age 13, born Colorado

Dunn Helen G., Daughter, age 11, born Colorado

Dunn Dora J., Daughter, age 9, born Colorado

Dunn Erma, Daughter, age 3y 9m, born Colorado

Cavenauh Al, Hired Man, age 33, single, born Kansas, father born Missouri, mother born Ohio, General Farm Farmer

Fitzgerald James, age 65, widow, born Ohio, father born Scotland, mother born Canada, General Farm Farmer

Marvine Creek families

Eels Victor C., age 30, married, born Colorado, Working Out Fur Trapper

Eels Agnes J., Wife, age 25, born Arkansas, father born Arkansas, mother born Arkansas

Eels Geneva I., Daughter, age 6, born Arkansas

Eels Lorinda P., Daughter, age 2y 7m, born Colorado

Frost Daniel F., age 43, married, born Maine, father born United States, mother born Maine, General Farm Farmer

Frost Minnie L., Wife, age 38, born Colorado, father born United States, mother born Colorado

Frost Walter R., Son, age 15, born Colorado, General Farm Laborer

Frost Merrill D., Son, age 11, born Colorado, General Farm Farmer

Frost Glenn T., Son, age 9, born Colorado

Frost Charles J. Son, age 7, born Colorado

Frost Marie E., Daughter, age 4y 2m, born Colorado

Johnson Herod, age 49, single, born Arkansas, father born Kentucky, mother born Kentucky

A History of Buford, Colorado

Johnson Marthie, Mother, age 82, widow, born Arkansas, father born Kentucky, mother born Kentucky, General Farm Farmer

Johnson James M., Brother, age 58, single, born Arkansas, Fur Trapper

Moore John, age 63, single, born Michigan, father born Pennsylvania, mother born Ohio, General Farm, Farm Manager

Marshallsay, Edward, Partner, age 70, single, 1869 N 1899, born England, father born England, mother born England

Ute Creek Families

Ferguson Thomas E., age 52, married, born Indiana, father born Indiana, mother born Kentucky, General Farm Farmer

Ferguson Cora A., Wife, age 43, born Kansas, father born New York, mother born Ohio

McKee Robert, age 60, single, 1871 N 1885, born Scotland, father and mother born Unknown, General Farm Farmer

North Fork Families

Clifton James J., age 26, married, born Oklahoma, father born Illinois, mother born Arkansas, General Farm Farmer

Clifton Alice D., Wife, age 21, born Oklahoma, father born United States, mother born Tennessee

Clifton Thomas R, Son, age 2, born Florida

Cilifton Bob W., Son, age 5m, born Kansas

Mullen William B., age 31, married, born Pennsylvania, father born Ireland, mother born California, US Forest Service Forest Ranger

Mullen Mammie, Wife, age 24, born Colorado, father born England, mother born Nebraska, (Given name could be Maurine)

Mullen Lewis W., Son, age 1y 6m, born Colorado

Mullen David G., Son, age 2m, born Colorado

Sykes Raymond, age 38, married, born New Jersey, father born New Jersey, mother born New Jersey, General Farm Farmer

Sykes Alice I., Wife, age 48, born New York, father born New York, mother born New York

Dunlap John L., age 59, single, born Connecticut, father born Connecticut, mother born Connecticut, General Farm Farmer

Belville William W., age 39, married, born Iowa, father born Nebraska, mother

A History of Buford, Colorado

born Nebraska, General Farm Farmer

Belville Eva, Wife, age 37, born Nebraska, father born Indiana, mother born Indiana

Belville Veda E., Daughter, age 16, born Nebraska

Belville Iva K., Daughter, age 12, born Nebraska

Bennett George L., age 59, widow, born Pennsylvania, father born Pennsylvania, mother born Pennsylvania, General Farm Farmer

Bennett Archer H., Son, age 39, married, born Colorado, father born Pennsylvania, mother born Wisconsin, General Farm Farmer

Bennett Annie I., Daughter In Law, age 36, born Colorado, father born England, mother born England

Bennett Earl A., Grandson, age 11, born Colorado

Bennett George H. , Grandson, age 9, born Colorado

Bennett Annie I. #2, Granddaughter, age 7, born Colorado

Bennett Mabel L., Granddaughter, age 6, born Colorado

Bennett Hariett M., Granddaughter, age 3y 2m, born Colorado

Bennett Lionel P., Grandson, age 1y 11m, born Colorado

DeWitt Debois C., age 35, married, born Indiana, father born Indiana, mother born Indiana, Fur Trapper

DeWitt Ruby, Wife, age 35, born Illinois , father born Malta, mother born Illinois

McNamee William J., age 67, divorced, born New York, father born

Massachusetts, mother born Connecticut, Stone Building Stone Mason

Lively William, age 43, single, born Missouri, father born Kansas, mother born Kansas Fur Trapper

Curry Benjamin E., age 38, married, born Missouri, father born Missouri, mother born Missouri, General Farm Farmer

Dry Creek families

Stith Alanson, age 60, single, born Missouri, father born Kentucky, mother born Kentucky, General Farm Farmer

By 1921, Kirk Shaw had convinced L. L. Offerle, that it would be to his best interests to purchase river front property. L. L. Offerle obtained the area that is now Buford. At that time there was a old cabin made of log slabs there, that is thought to have belonged to a man named Marsh, back in the early 1900's.

In the early 1920's the work began for the development of a Buford Store

A History of Buford, Colorado

in the area of the North and South Forks of the White River. In The Meeker Herald article on Saturday May 7, 1921 the following information was written:

May 7, 1921

Real Estate Transaction

“A real estate transaction of more than usual importance took place last week when C. P. Mathes bought the fine residence of L. L. Offerle with the seven lots attached on river front.

In a few weeks the Offerle family will move to Buford, where Mr. Offerle will open a store in the growing community. As Lawrence is a thorough store man, there is no doubt as to the success of his venture.

The Scott Agency carried through the important transaction.”

Lawrence L. Offerle 01/14/1927 Book 72 page 481 160 acres Located section 8 #28

(This is the property where some of Buford is located today and is owned by the Tucker family today.)

In these early years of building Buford Store/Post office/Lodge Kirk Shaw brought in a portable saw mill to help begin the building there. Logs were brought in to build the great store room, as well as the three bedrooms upstairs. The original rooms and logs still exist today, though much of the interior has been renovated and an addition put on. The historic cabins are still there as well and one can step back in time in their stay at Buford today.

Taken from This Is What I Remember Vol. III written by Mrs. Vern Offerle, pages 164-166, published by the Rio Blanco County Historical Society, Inc., Meeker, Colorado was the following information on:

The Offerle Family

“Lawrence Lewis Offerle was in his early “twenties” working as an apprentice pharmacist in a drug store in Pueblo, Colorado, when he met and married Bertha May Rainey in 1903. She was a Western Union Operator who had also been an operator at the Brown Palace Hotel in Denver.

They became good friends of the Gardners who were leaving Rifle, Colorado. Mr. Gardner asked L. L. to manage the grocery side of the Hugus Company. In 1910 the family moved to Meeker and L. L. continued to work for the Hugus Company. Their first home was one of the log buildings built for Officers of the Troops when they came to settle the trouble with the Indians. The Offerle family later bought eight lots and two houses near the White River in Meeker. There they could have chickens, a big garden, and a cow.

Tom, their second son (one had succumbed to illness in Pueblo), was about five years old when a third son, Norman Jack arrived. Tom and Jack played with neighbors, Ralph, Charles, and Donald Tagart. A fourth son arrived, Vern V. and when he was about two years old, Kirk Shaw, a family friend and a Civil Engineer, found the place called Buford had been opened for homesteading. Kirk took L. L. to Glenwood Springs, Colorado to file on this property. Buford, about halfway between Meeker and Trappers Lake, was a beautiful setting for a general store by the White River. The family that had been living on this property left two old buildings and a fence. L. L. took Tom and a man to help clean up the place and then opened a store. The family moved there in April, 1921, and these were horse and buggy days, sleds in winter. Supplies and groceries for the store were ordered from Denver.

A History of Buford, Colorado



(The Buford Store, 1921)



Buford Store About 1923

Kirk moved his private sawmill to the grounds and L. L. worked with him to get logs to build a large store-room and a second story for bedrooms. Then a fourth class Post-Office was acquired, filling station, and cabins were added.

The school house was the meeting place for the residents of the community and everyone worked to get logs from the mountains to add a room to the school. Tom finished the eighth grade there and then Jack and Vern attended, except for portions of some years. There was a Thanksgiving Dinner at the school for those who had worked to build on the addition to the one room school house. Many dances were given the year around but in summer everyone had so much work to do that the dances ended earlier than those given in the winter when dancers and musicians stayed until daylight.



(On the back of the picture previously it says Bertha May Offerle and Kenneth Marsh with a pet deer.)

A History of Buford, Colorado

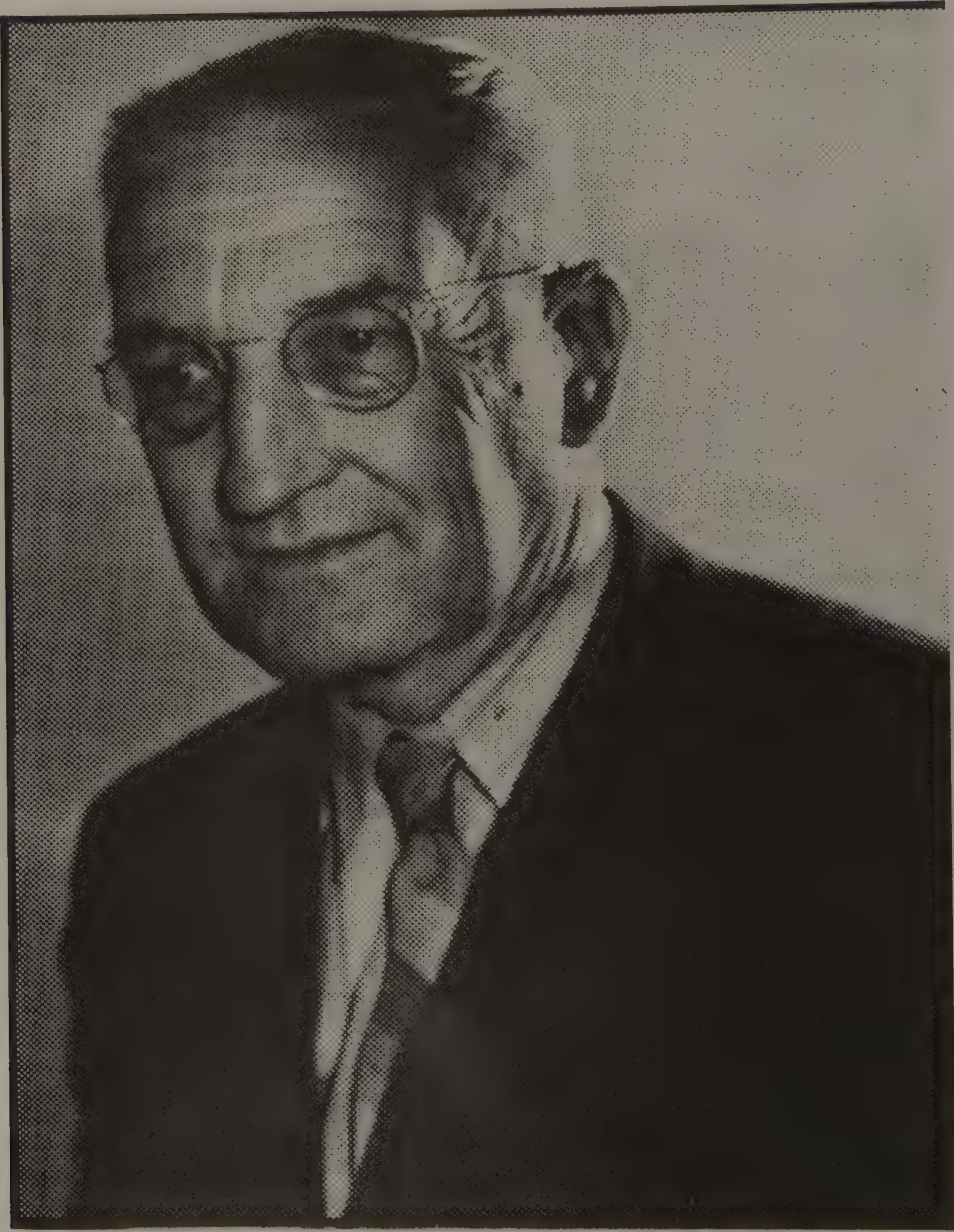


(On the back it says L. L. and Bertha Offerle.)

Rocks were heated to put in the sleds and everyone was dressed warmly to start the ride home.

The Paul Dunn family visited from Marvine quite often and as the years went by two of the Offerle boys, Tom and Jack, married two daughters of Paul and Goldie Dunn, Helen and Irma. Daughters Betty and Irma stayed with the Offerle's, for school was not open at Marvine, at times.

Later on L. L. Married Mabel Mills, a teacher at Buford, and they made their home in Pueblo but managed the Forest Inn at Trappers Lake during the summers. They had two children, Sarah and John.



The former picture was of L L. Offerle, 1879-1941.

A History of Buford, Colorado

The tourist business improved through the years as transportation had progressed to automobiles and the roads had been improved. Each spring there was still snow when the Offerle's opened the Inn and they would work through the deer and elk season. A few days before his death, L. L. had moved his family to the Inn and was putting the Inn in readiness for the coming tourist season. He died of a sudden stroke. He was a Master Mason and Knights Templar and the services were conducted at the Masonic Hall on June 1st, 1941, in Meeker, Colorado.



(T. W. (Tom) Offerle with a view inside the Buford Store and Post Office)

Tom Offerle started working for Rube Ball, who managed the Marvine Lodge, when he was but twelve years old. Tom was ambitious, and after going to Pueblo for some business training and military service, he married Helen Dunn and managed the Buford Store while his parents worked at Elk Lodge and also one winter while the parents were in California. Tom and his wife later had stores in Bailey and Grant, Colorado, where Tom was also a Deputy Sheriff. When the family returned to Meeker, Tom managed the swimming pool, worked at the

A History of Buford, Colorado

movie theatre, was a volunteer Fireman, and managed a gas and oil bulk plant. Tom liked people and always managed to help with community projects. After spending some time in Arizona, Tom and Helen moved to Farmington, New Mexico to be near their daughter, Marilynne, and son, Bob, and their families. Helen's health was failing and she passed away October 25, 1972. Tom continued to live in Farmington and later married a family friend, Anna Morris, Tom passed away November 16, 1984.

About 1933, L. L. took over the management of the Forest Inn, Bertha managed the Buford Store and Jack became associated with Paul Dunn as manager of the Meeker Hotel. Vern was attending high school in Meeker and worked some hours each day for his brother at the Meeker Hotel. In addition to his able management of the hotel, Jack took an active part in all community affairs. He enjoyed outdoor life and met his death while hunting with a friend who never recovered from the mistake of shooting at a moving object before he could identify it.

Jack's wife Irma, later married Howard Kilduff.

Vern remembers steady customers at the Buford Store who were ranchers and lived within a ten mile radius and came to the Post Office regularly for their mail. The stage carrying mail and freight came from Meeker three days each week. In the early days it was a freight wagon or sled. Usually, four horses or mules were used to pull the vehicle. The driver had to care for the animals and drive thirty or more miles a day, regardless of the weather or road conditions. L. L. kept the store open from 7:00 a. m. to 11:00 p.m. and got up in the night to wait on a customer, if necessary, but in the winter there were few tourists and he would work away at a sawmill, or on a road construction project where he usually was a cook.

Vern attended Buford School most of the eight years of grade school. The school was a little more than a mile away. The summers were spent helping with the cleaning of the store and cabins and cutting wood for the stoves. He attended high school in Meeker except for some times in California schools. After graduating from Meeker High School in 1936, he married a classmate, Hermine Stadtman and they moved to Grand Junction where they both attended Business College. The Offerles lived in Grand Junction twenty-three years and their family dance band played at proms and dances over most of the western slope towns. In 1959, the family moved to Boulder, Colorado that the five sons, and one daughter could attend the University. Vern and Hermine were employees of the University

A History of Buford, Colorado

of Colorado for twenty-one years and now enjoy retirement in Boulder.”

(The picture below states on the back: “Ranchers & cowboys waiting for the stage.”)



A History of Buford, Colorado



A History of Buford, Colorado



("Frank Porters car & Store about 1922/23)

A History of Buford, Colorado



“Winter Stage 1922”

(Photo from Meeker Herald, story and photo by Justine C. Irwin.)

A History of Buford, Colorado



(Vern Offerle & elk killed by E D Stevens & Joe Fox about 1931.)

A History of Buford, Colorado



(L to R Vern, Tom, Jack Offerle, Robert Hanna, ? Robert)
(October hunting season (deer) 1931)

A History of Buford, Colorado



(Picture taken by Vern Offerle & Ernie Findlay about 1931.)

A History of Buford, Colorado



(Living room & kitchen, carbide gas plant in foreground, early pictures of Buford. Today this building is part of the laundry and wash house.)

A History of Buford, Colorado



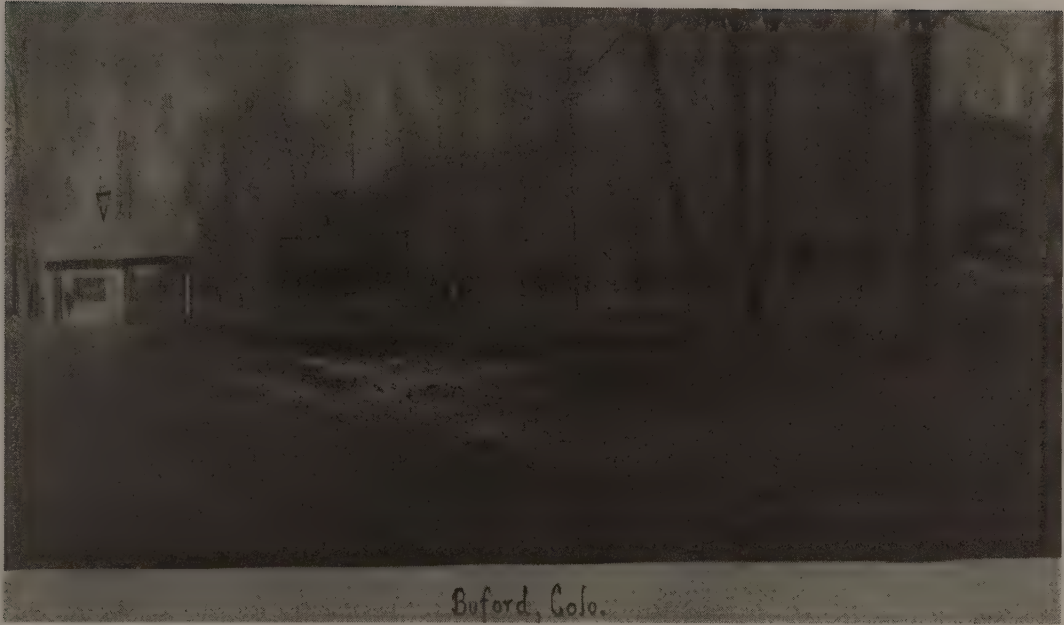
(Early pictures of Buford; L to R, store room, living room, kitchen, storage shed. The front part of this building is thought to still remain at Buford, and is being used as part of the laundry facilities. (above))

A History of Buford, Colorado



(The Old Stage.)

A History of Buford, Colorado



Thanks to the Offerle family, the pictures presented above were saved and the history of this family and their founding of Buford Store. Through their kindness these pictures were sent to Buford in care of Mr. Tucker so that the early history may be saved and preserved in the Museum located there today.

A History of Buford, Colorado



(Antique letter box at Buford Store and Post Office which is still on location.)



(Left to right, Mr. Heaton, Vern Offerle, and L. L. Offerle. About 1932 with
“modern gas pump in front of the building which exists today.)
(Taken from The Meeker Herald, photo's by Justine C. Irwin.)

The following is the legal document of the dissolution of marriage between L. L. Offerle and Bertha May Offerle on file at the Rio Blanco County Court House. The date shown is February 2, 1934. It is believed that it is due to this dissolution of marriage, that the thoughts of selling Buford Store, Post Office, and Lodge were being consider

A History of Buford, Colorado

Terre by 2000

1900

No. 50927

State of Colorado }
Rio Blanco Co. }

I hereby certify that this instrument was filed for record in my office the 2 day of Feb. 1934 at 3⁰⁰ o'clock P. M., and is duly recorded in Book 85 page 306

Miss

County Clerk and Recorder

Deputy

A History of Buford, Colorado

Located in The Meeker Herald were the following news items pertaining to the Offerle family:

June 4, 1927

Dunn-Offerle and Baldauf-Dunn

"Glenwood Springs seemed to be a popular place with our young people past week. On Wednesday of this week a double wedding took place at the hot water town when Miss Helen Dunn became the bride of Mr. Thomas Offerle and Miss Katherine Baldauf the bride of Mr. Lester Dunn.

Thomas Offerle and Miss Dunn were married first; Lester Dunn and Miss Katherine Baldauf acting as bridesmaid and best man; after which ceremony the bride and groom in the first act attended Mr. Dunn and Miss Baldauf. The young couples will spend a few days on a honeymoon trip to Canon City and Pueblo after which they will make their homes in the upper country.

The bride of the first wedding, Helen Dunn is the oldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Dunn of Marvine. Mrs. Offerle came to White river from California with her parents a number of years ago. She attended school at Marvine and later attended a finishing school in Oklahoma.

The groom, Thomas Offerle is the oldest son of Mr. and Mrs. L. L. Offerle of Buford. Tom came to Meeker with his parents when a small boy and has grown up in this section. After finishing school in this county Tom went to Pueblo where he took a business course. For the past two years he has been associated with his father in the store at Buford where he and his bride will make their home.

The bride in the second wedding, Katherine Baldauf is the youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Balduaf of Miller creek. Katherine has grown up in this community and attended our schools. She graduated from Rio Blanco high school a year ago. The past term Mrs. Dunn has taught at the Marvine school.

The groom, Lester Dunn, is the oldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Dunn of Marvine and has been associated with his father in the tourist resort and Marvine post office. This young couple will make their home at Marvine where Lester will continue with his father in business. These young couples are popular members of the younger set and upon their return will receive the hearty congratulations of their many friends."

November 9, 1928

Infant Son Of Offerle's Passes Away At Buford

"Paul Lewis Offerle the infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Offerle passed away suddenly at their Buford home last Saturday morning. The baby had been sick the night before but after taking some medicine went to sleep and appeared to be all right. Saturday morning it again became ill and passed away before medical aid could be summoned.

The funeral services for this infant child were held Wednesday afternoon from the Methodist Church, Rev. White officiating. The sympathy of all, goes out at this time to the bereaved parents."

Card of Thanks

We wish to express our sincere appreciation to the many friends for their kindnesses during the death and burial of our beloved son.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Offerle

Mr. and Mrs. L. L. Offerle

Mr. and Mrs. Paul C. Dunn

The following documents were found pertaining to the Offerle family, Buford Store and Post Office. The first one is dated January 2, 1935 and pertains to funds being paid to Bertha May Offerle, for her part of the Buford Store and Post Office.

The next document is dated January 9, 1936 and shows the sale of Buford Store and Post Office to Charles W. and Clara A. Grove. This document was located at the Rio Blanco County Court House. According to the known records the stamp shown in the middle of the page represents the amount of the sale per 1,000 thus, the \$6.50 amount would be \$6,500 for the sale of this property from L. L. and Bertha Offerle to the Grove family.

A History of Buford, Colorado

No. 55908.

300 - WARRANTY DEED. Out West Printing and Stationery Co., Colorado Springs, Colo. T-3065

This Deed, Made this 9th day of January in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and Thirty-six between Lawrence L. Offerle and Bertha May Offerle

of the County of Rio Blanco and State of Colorado, of the first part, and

Charles M. Grove and Clara A. Grove

of the County of Rio Blanco and State of Colorado, of the second part;

Witnesseth, That the said parties of the first part, for and in consideration of the sum of

Ten Dollars and other good and valuable consideration

Dollars,

to the said parties of the first part in hand paid by the said parties of the second part the receipt whereof is hereby confessed and acknowledged, have granted, bargained, sold and conveyed, and by these presents do grant, bargain, sell, convey and confirm unto the said parties of the second part, their heirs and assigns, forever, all the following described lots or parcels of land, situate, lying and being in the County of Rio Blanco and State of Colorado, to-wit:

The Southwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter ($SW\frac{1}{4}SW\frac{1}{4}$) of Section Four (4), the North Half of the Northwest Quarter ($N\frac{1}{2}NW\frac{1}{4}$) and the Southeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter ($SE\frac{1}{4}NE\frac{1}{4}$) of Section Eight (8), and the Northwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter ($NW\frac{1}{4}NW\frac{1}{4}$) of Section Nine (9), all in Township One (1) South of Range Forty-one (41) West of the Sixth Principal Meridian, Colorado, containing two hundred acres, more or less, together with the improvements thereon and any and all ditch and water rights appertaining or belonging thereto.



A History of Buford, Colorado

Together With all and singular the hereditaments and appurtenances therunto belonging, or in anywise appertaining, and the reversion and reversions, remainder and remainders, rents, issues and profits thereof; and all the estate, right, title, interest, claim and demand whatsoever, of the said parties of the first part, either in law or equity, of, in and to the above bargained premises, with the hereditaments and appurtenances.

To Have and to Hold The said premises above bargained and described, with the appurtenances, unto the said parties of the second part, their heirs and assigns forever. And the said

parties of the first part, for themselves, their heirs, executors and administrators, do covenant, grant, bargain and agree to and with the said parties of the second part, their heirs and assigns, that at the time of the executing and delivery of these presents, they are well seized of the premises above conveyed, as of good, sure, perfect, absolute and indefeasible estate of inheritance, in law, in fee simple, and have good right full power and lawful authority to grant, bargain, sell and convey the same, in manner and form aforesaid, and that the same are free and clear from all former and other grants, bargains, sales, liens, taxes, assessments and incumbrances, of whatever kind and/or nature soever, except a deed of trust appearing of record in Book 79 at page 522 of the records in the office of the County Clerk, Recorder of Rio Blanco County, Colorado, in favor of Lawrence L. Offerle, which the grantees herein by acceptance hereof, assume and agree to pay.

and the above bargained promises in the quiet and peaceable possession of the said parties of the second part, their heirs and assigns, against all and every person or persons lawfully claiming or to claim the whole or any part thereof, the said parties of the first part shall and will Warrant and Forever Defend.

In Witness Whereof, The said parties of the first part have hereunto set their hand and seal on the day and year first above written.

SIGNED, SEALED AND DELIVERED IN PRESENCE OF

Lawrence L. Offerle

Seal

STATE OF COLORADO, County of Rio Blanco,) ss. I, Ernest Offerle, Notary Public in and for said County, do hereby certify that Lawrence L. Offerle was personally known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to the annexed Deed, appeared before me this day in person, and acknowledged that he signed, sealed and delivered the said instrument of writing as his free and voluntary act, for the uses and purposes therein set forth. Given under my hand and official seal, this 10th day of January, A. D. 1935. My commission expires on 31, 1939.

Seal

Seal

Seal

Seal

STATE OF COLORADO,

County of Rio Blanco,) ss. I, Herbert Gardan, County Clerk & Recorder in and for said County, do hereby certify that

Bertha May Offerle

personally known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to the annexed Deed, appeared before me this day in person, and acknowledged that she signed, sealed and delivered the said instrument of writing as her free and voluntary act, for the uses and purposes therein set forth.

Given under my hand and official seal, this 10th day of January, A. D. 1935.

My commission expires 19



Filed for record the 20 day of Jan., A. D. 1935, at 11:45 o'clock A. M.

By _____ Recorder.
By _____ Deputy

Mr. and Mrs. L. L. Offerle went their own way. Mr. Offerle later married Mabel Mills, a teacher at Buford. In later years they made their home in Pueblo

but managed the Forest Inn at Trappers Lake during the summers. They had two children, Sarah and John.

October 14, 1937

Jack Offerle Accidentally Killed Tuesday, While Deer Hunting

**Unfortunate Accident Occurred the First Morning of Hunting Season--
Robert Woodard Mistook Hunting Partner for Deer**

“One of the most unfortunate accidents that has occurred in this community in many years took place Tuesday, the opening day of hunting season, when Robert Woodard accidentally shot and killed Jack Offerle while the two men were hunting together on upper White river. While first reports of the tragedy reached Meeker early Tuesday morning, details were uncertain and everyone hoped against hope that the popular young business man had only been wounded, but later reports brought news that Jack had been instantly killed.

Several days before hunting season, Mr. Woodard and Mr. Offerle had decided to hunt together, intending to do most of their hunting early in the morning and then come back to town to attend to their businesses during the day, Mr. Woodard being employed by Mr. Offerle in the Meeker Liquor Store in part of the hotel building. The two men left town about three o'clock Tuesday morning and drove their car to the old Bennett ranch which is part of the Elk Lodge property about forty miles east of Meeker on the North fork of White river. Leaving their car beside the road the two men started up Horse Draw, one taking one side of the gulch and the other the other side of the gulch. They had gone probably a mile and a half or two miles and it was just beginning to get light, when Mr. Woodard saw something moving in the brush on the other side of the gulch and thought it must be a deer. Raising his gun, Mr. Woodard took a shot at the moving object in the brush, which was not clear in the early morning light. As soon as he shot, he must have realized his mistake, for he ran over to where he shot, between two and three hundred yards distant, and there found that he had shot his hunting partner, Jack Offerle. Mr. Woodard tried to arouse Jack but without avail he put his coat under Jack's head and started down the draw calling

for help. By the time he reached the road, his clothes were badly torn by the brush and he was nearly exhausted. About that time Verne Caldwell and Dr. Munro of Grand Junction came along the road, just starting out hunting. They took Mr. Woodard to their camp at the old Everett Watson place, but he was so hysterical that it was several minutes before they could find out what had happened. Dr. Munro accompanied Mr. Caldwell and Mr. Woodard and several other hunters and they started at once for the scene of the accident. Mr. Woodard had a hard time directing the party back to the scene, and Mr. Caldwell was the first one to reach the body. Dr. Munro made a field examination and stated that in his opinion Jack had been instantly killed. The bullet entered the left side just below the breast and ranged upward coming out the right side of the back. The main artery of the heart was cut which no doubt caused instant death.

Coroner John Rabska was called but, was on a hunting trip and it was afternoon before the body was removed to Meeker. A coroner's inquest was impaneled that evening but have not as yet made their final report as Mr. Woodard has been in such a state of collapse that he has been unable to testify before the jury.

Norman Jack Offerle was born in Meeker on October 31, 1911. His early years were spent in Meeker where he started to school. Later his folks started the Buford store and Jack finished his grade school education at the Buford school. He attended high school at Los Angeles and San Diego, California and was preparing to go on to school when his health broke and made it impossible. Several winters were spent in Arizona and California and Jack seemed to completely recover. When Jack's father took over the management of Forest Inn at Trappers Lake, Jack became associated with his mother in the management of the Buford store, continuing in this capacity until three years ago when Mr. Paul Dunn purchased and remodeled the Meeker hotel. Mr. Dunn put Jack in charge of the hotel as active manager, which position he was holding at the time of his untimely death. Jack had one of the finest and pleasantest dispositions of any young man it has ever been our pleasure to know. His sunny disposition and happy smile won many friends for him while at the Buford store and were one of the main reasons he made an outstanding success as manager of our Meeker hotel. It was a pleasure to go into the hotel, for Jack always met one with a pleasant salutation and a smile, which made the hotel most popular with the traveling public. Jack Offerle was one of the outstanding young business men of our community and his place will be sorely missed and everyone in the community

extends his most heartfelt sympathy to his loved ones.

Jack was united in marriage to Miss Irma Dunn on November 2nd, 1933. In addition to his young wife, Jack leaves to mourn his untimely death his mother, Mrs. Bertha Rainey of Denver; his father, L. L. Offerle of Buford; and two brothers, Thomas Offerle of Shawnee, Colorado and Vern Offerle of Grand Junction, as well as a host of other near relatives and friends.

In addition to his able management of the Meeker hotel, Jack took and active part in all community affairs. He was a member of the Governing Board of our Commercial Club and one of the enthusiastic boosters of the Meeker Lions Club. He was an active member of the I. O. O. F. lodge of Meeker and this fraternal organization will have charge of the funeral services which will be held this afternoon from the Methodist church, Rev. Manwaring in charge of the Church services and the Odd Fellows conducting their services at the grave side.

Thus another life is ended but the memory of Norman Jack Offerle will live in the hearts of his many friends forever."

May 29, 1941

Community Shocked By Sudden Death of L. L. Offerle

"The entire community was shocked this morning when word reached town that Mr. L. L. Offerle had passed away very suddenly at his Forest Inn resort near Trappers Lake. Mr. Offerle came in about two weeks ago after spending the winter in Pueblo and was getting the resort open for the coming tourist season. Shortly after coming in he made a trip to the Inn, and then last weekend went up to stay and help with the opening of the road, in hopes of having the road cleared for a party coming in over this weekend from Denver.

The road was opened as far as Skinny Fish camp ground and they were working on the last mile and a half. Early this morning, Leslie Mitchell, who is working at the Inn, came down to the telephone and called Mr. Offerle's son, Tom, telling him that his father had suffered a stroke during the night and urging that he come at once with a doctor and help move Mr. Offerle out to the road. Mr. Tom Offerle and Mr. Howard Kilduff left at once for Forest Inn to bring Mr. Offerle to town. Word came thru about the middle of the morning that Mr. Offerle had passed away.

L.L. Offerle was born February 21, 188, being just past 61 years of age.

He came to this community over thirty years ago to work for Hugus & Company. He worked for this company until they sold out, then started a store and summer tourist resort at Buford. This enterprise he built into a fine business. A few years ago he purchased Forest Inn at Trappers Lake and has built up a fine tourist business at that place. He was one of the best boosters this county had and the news of his death came as a distinct shock to all. As yet no arrangements have been made, but the body is being moved today from the resort to Meeker.

June 5, 1941

Obituary of L. L. Offerle As Presented at Masonic Funeral Sunday

“Lawrence L Offerle, born at Geneseo, Illinois, February 21, 1880--died at Forest Inn, at Trappers Lake, Colorado, May 29th, 1941--age, 61 years, 3 months, and 8 days.

Brother Offerle, a few days before his death, had moved with his family, to his Forest Inn Resort at Trappers, Lade Colorado, to put the Inn in readiness for the coming tourist season.

On the morning of May 29th, he arose early and while in the act of shaving, became suddenly ill and died soon after. Help was summoned from Meeker but, when this aid arrived there, brother Lawrence had passed to the Great Beyond from whence no traveler returns.

In the Spring of 1909, Brother Offerle moved to Meeker from Rifle with his family and entered the employ of J. W. Hugus & Co. for which firm he worked until the year of 1919 at which time J. W. Hugus & Co. sold out to A. Oldland & Co. For a year or more he worked for A. Oldland & Co., and then in the year of 1921, purchased the Buford Store, at Buford, Colorado, which place he operated until the year of 1934. Soon after leaving the Buford Store he bought the Forest Inn property and has been operating this resort every since.

Brother Offerle was a very hard and conscientious worker and made a success of every venture he undertook. He was always willing and ready to do his part and was a loyal, earnest, self-sacrificing servant both to his employer and to the general public with whom he dealt daily. No favor sought went un-granted, if within his power to give, and his cheerful and jovial manner will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

In the year of 1903, he was united in married to Bertha M. Rainey, at

A History of Buford, Colorado

Pueblo, Colorado, to which union were born, Thomas, Jack and Vern Offerle, Jack having proceeded his father several years ago.

On September 6th, 1934, Brother Offerle was married to Mabel Mills and two children, Sarah Lou and John Jacob, came to bless this union.

His Masonic record is a record to be proud of and is one of activity and achievement. He was initiated in Rio Blanco Lodge No. 80 on January 13th, 1912, and Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason on Feb. 24th, 1912. After first serving in all of the subordinate offices, he served his lodge as worshipful Master in the year of 1919.

The Capitulary Degree were conferred upon him by Meeker Chapter No. 37 as follows: The Mark Master on Jan. 4th, 1913, Past Master April 5th, 1913, Most Excellent Master May 3rd, 1913, and the Royal Arch June 7th, 1913.

On January 31, 1914, he was given the Red Cross, on February 21, 1914 was created a Knight of Malta and admitted to the Order of the Temple in Meeker, Commandery No. 33, K. T.

He leaves to mourn his untimely passing, his Beloved wife, Mabel and two children, Sarah Lou and John Jacob Offerle, and his sons Thomas and Vern Offerle, to whom we extend our heartfelt sympathy and condolence.

‘Tis but a wish, a thought, a prayer
That when life’s journey done,
When all life’s battles have been fought,
And the last great victory won,
May there be waiting on the shore,
Of that better, brighter land,
The ones who have crossed death’s dark sea over.
The Faithful of our band,
Though we have missed them day by day
Since they have entered into rest,
Tis ours though with a sorrowing
Heart, to say ‘God knoweth best.’”

On the afternoon of June 1st, 1941, following services at the Masonic Hall,

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the mortal remains of our departed brother were gently laid to rest in Highland Cemetery with full Masonic honors.”

Thus ends the time of L. L. Offerle in the upper White river country and the new owners of the Buford Store and Post Office begin.

During the time period that the Offerle family owned and operated the Buford Store, Post Office, and Lodge; they created a central place in the community of the upper White River valley. Buford became the hub of a wagon wheel for the people living there. It became a place on the map, a place to congregate, to do business, and for transportation. The Buford Store under the management of the Offerle family thrived and drew people in at least a ten mile radius. The Offerle family put Buford on the map.

While restoring Buford the winter of 2006, the following tablet was found. Mr. Offerle's billing tablet will go into the Buford Museum in memory of the man who first built the Buford Store and Lodge.

Printed by the National Cast Register Co., Dayton, Ohio

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were located on the 1900 United States Federal Census. The Grove family can be located in Rio Blanco County, Colorado. Their information is as follows:

1900 United States Federal Census
Rio Blanco County, Colorado
Precinct 4
Sheet Number 9 A
Reel Number T623-129
Page Number 2 B
Enumerated on June 2, 1900 by Sara Carson

Grove Edwin P, born November 1844, age 56, Married 22 years, born in Virginia, father born in Virginia, mother born in Virginia

Grove Fannie, wife, born October 1854, age 45, married 22 years, born in England, father born in England, mother born in England, occupation Milliner | Milliner

Grove Nellie, daughter, born March 1880, age 20, single, born in Missouri, occupation at school.

Grove Charles W, son, born January 1882, age 18, single, born Missouri, occupation at school

Grove Henry P, son, born August 1885, age 14, born Missouri, occupation at school

Grove Glen G, son, born August 1888, age 11, born Colorado

Grove Otto L, son, born September 1891 born Colorado

On the 1910 United States Federal Census it shows Charles W. Grove as being married with family. The information is as follows:

1910 United States Federal Census
Rio Blanco, Colorado
Precinct Number 9 West Meeker
Enumerated on April 25-26, 1910 by Henry A. Wildhack

Sheet Number 17 A

Reel Number T 624-125

Page Number 8 B

Grove Charles W., age 27, married 4 years, born in Missouri, father born Missouri, mother born Colorado, occupation Plasterer

Grove Clara, wife, age 22, married 4 years, born Colorado, father born Missouri, mother born Colorado

Grove Ralph W., son, age 3, born Colorado

Grove Dorothy A, daughter, age 3 months, born Colorado Missouri

In 1920 on the United States Federal Census we find Henry P. Grove and his family, brother to Charles Grove, still living in Meeker. No records could be found as yet as to where Charles Grove and his family were in 1920. It is stated in Charles Grove's obituary that the family left for a year and went to California. Perhaps this is why they were not to be found in Meeker, the year of 1920.

1920 United States Federal Census

Rio Blanco County, Colorado

Precinct 2 White River SD

Enumerated on February 4, 1920 by, Claude J. Boyed

Sheet Number 249 B

Reel Number T 625-169

Page 5 A

Grove Henry P., age 34, born Missouri, father born Virginia, mother born England, occupation Stock Farm Manager

Grove Ella, wife, age 38, born Colorado, father born Ohio, mother born Pennsylvania

Grove Vera, daughter, age 10, born Colorado

Grove Myrle, daughter, age 8, born Idaho

Grove Opal, daughter, age 6, born Idaho

In the year of 1930, we find the Charles Grove family living on Park, in Meeker, Colorado. The information is as follows:

**1930 United States Federal Census
Rio Blanco County, Colorado
Precinct Number 9 SD West Meeker
Enumerated on April 5, 1930 by Edna M. Stadtman
Sheet Number 16 B
Reel Number T 625-250
Page Number 5 A**

Grove Charles William, value \$5000, age 46, married 23 years born Missouri, father born Virginia, mother born England, occupation Laborer General Work
Grove Clara A., wife, age 43, born Colorado, father born Germany, mother born Missouri (Meeker Herald Obituary February 1973 shows nee METZGER)
Grove Ralph William, son, age 22, single, born Colorado Missouri (Meeker Herald Obituary February 6, 1964)

Mr. Charles William Grove is also found on the 1917 Draft Birth Registrations:

**1917 Draft Birth Registration
Grove, Charles William 3 Jan 1883 W Rio Blanco CO**

The following article in This is What I Remember, Vol. I, page 201 published by the Rio Blanco County Historical Society, Inc., Meeker, Colorado.

"Back to Cassidy's at eighth and Market. The house south of that corner was built by Louis Allen, and Charlie Grove built the John Lockhart house on the south side of Water Street. The Goff House was on that corner. The sons were Harry, John, Homer, and Andy, John Goff was a guide for Vice-President Teddy Roosevelt when he was here (Meeker) on his famous hunting trip."

A History of Buford, Colorado

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Grove purchased the Buford Store and Post Office from Mr. and Mrs. L. L. Offerle in 1936. By the year of 1945, they sold the Buford Store and Post Office to their son Ralph W. Grove and moved back to Meeker, Colorado.

Mr. Ralph W. Grove married Miss Florence Roberta Jones, at Denver, on February 22, 1934. After he graduated from CU, Ralph Grove entered the government service with the Soil Conservation Service. At this time he was assigned to Pueblo district as a civil engineer. The family was there from 1935 to 1945 when they returned to Meeker and the White river valley.

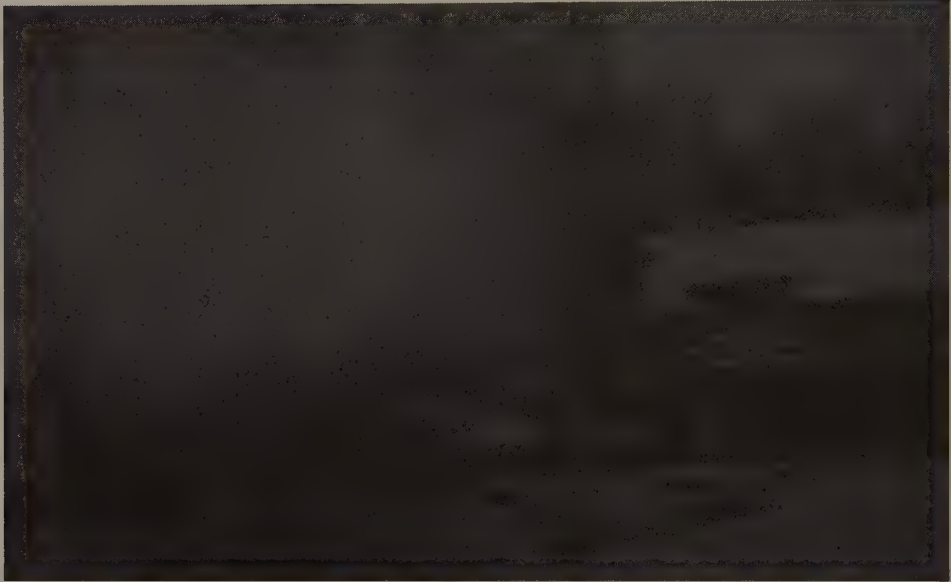
Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Grove purchased the Buford Store and cabins in 1945. Mr. Grove also continued to work with the Soil Conservation service, during this time. He was in charge of the engineering work for the Meeker Soil Conservation office. When the Craig and Glenwood Springs district offices were combined into a larger Soil Conservation area office in 1958, Mr. Grove was made Area Engineer for the Glenwood office. Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Grove then sold Buford and all of it's holdings and moved to Glenwood Springs to make it their home. They remained in Glenwood and he continued in this office until his death in 1964.

A History of Buford, Colorado



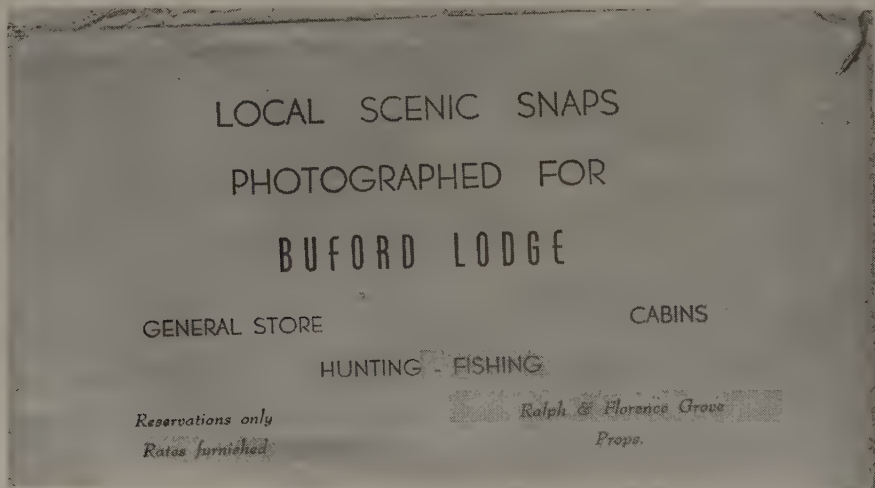
(An early picture of the Buford Store and Post Office)

A History of Buford, Colorado



(An early picture of the store but, also the cars and on the left the gas pump.)

The following items were found at Buford that still hold the memories of the Grove family:



A History of Buford, Colorado

In this envelope of Ralph and Florence Grove were pictures they had of the area, to sell in the Buford Lodge. Some of the pictures to be found in the envelope are as follows:

The pictures, taken expressly for Buford Lodge, are numbered from 651 to 663 inclusive and portray the various scenes in and around Buford:

- 651 South Fork, White River.
- 652 The Flat Tops, White River Plateau
- 653 Trappers Lake
- 654 Elk grazing on Flat Tops
- 655 Pillows Lakes
- 656 The Amphitheatre, Trappers Lake
- 657 Grazing line on White River
- 658 Elk grazing on Flat Tops
- 659 South Fork Canyon, White River
- 660 Ranger Station at Buford
- 661 Buford Peaks
- 662 Hurro Mountain (on a clear day)
- 663 1/2 mile to Lost Creek Ranger Station
- 664 Trails End.

The titles were not printed on the reverse of the picture for it is believed that personal written descriptions will enhance the pictures especially when shown to friends or placed into your photo album.

A History of Buford, Colorado



651 South Fork, White River



#652 The Flat Tops, White River Plateau

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#653 Trappers Lake



#654 Elk Grazing on Flat Tops

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#655 Baileys Lakes



#656 The Amphitheater, Trappers Lake

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#657 Grazing Time on the White River



#659 South Fork Canyon, White River

A History of Buford, Colorado



#660 Ranger Station at Buford



#661 Buford Peaks

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#662 Burro Mountain (on a clear day)



#663 ½ Mile to Lost Creek Ranger Station

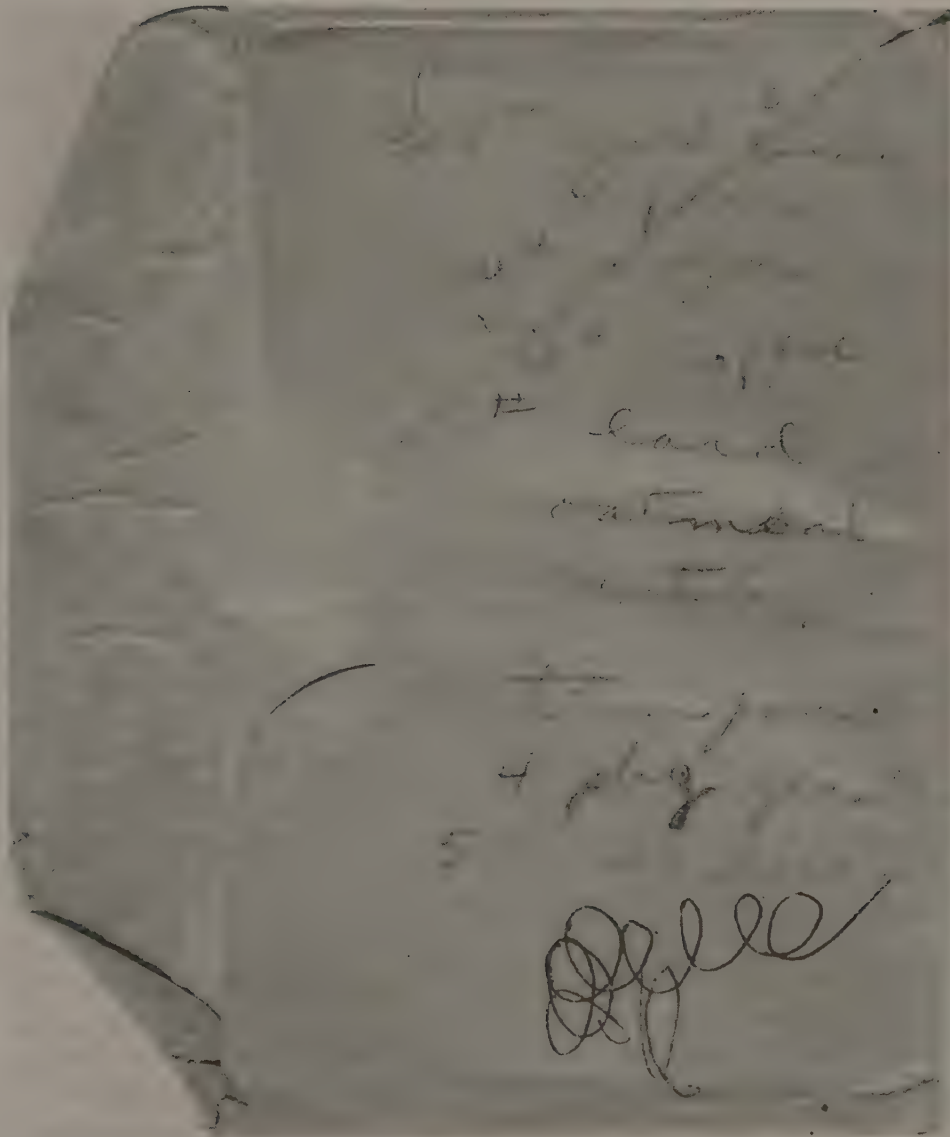
A History of Buford, Colorado



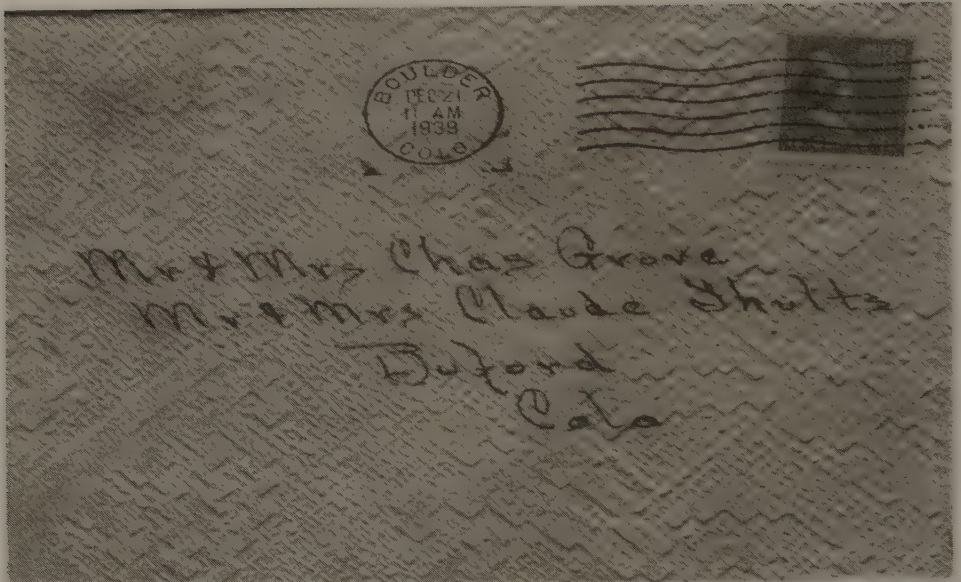
#664 Trails End

Ralph and Florence Grove had tried hard to show the beauty of the upper-White river country through these photos. Also found on the back of the envelope, that these photos were in, was the following store order, placed by Guy Stealey, a neighbor living up the road at that time.

A History of Buford, Colorado



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(A memory of the Grove family found amongst the old papers at Buford Store.)

During the time period that the Grove family owned and operated Buford Store and Post Office, Dorothy Grove, sister to Ralph Grove worked there. She met and married Claude Shultz. In the memories of Claude Shultz taken from a video tape the Forrest Service in Meeker, Colorado had taped was the following information:

Claude Shultz

“Claude Edward Shultz was born 1911, in Kansas. His father’s name was Walter O. Shultz and his mother was Loa Eddy.

The family he remembered, homesteaded on the eastern slope and lived there for ten years. Back then there was no water and they used cow chips for fuel. His dad’s uncle lived three miles from them and his family went there to get water and hauled it from there. One whole winter they lived in covered wagons. The wind there blew so hard that it blew the crops out as fast as they could put them in. The family finally gave up and left it to the creditors. They then went to Parachute for four years and here he graduated out of Rifle. The family then came to Meeker in 1928. He mentioned there was a brother Earl, then Ival,

A History of Buford, Colorado

himself, Lester, Bessie, Walter, Philip, Donnie, Winifred, and Bernice.

Worked for Joy Water company for seven years. He met Dorothy Grove whose folks had bought Buford and lived there for ten years. He said Buford sold supplies and carried mail up the river on the sleds when the snow came. The roads between Meeker and Buford were muddy. They went to the dances in town and then took the cars out and when the road froze at night they could drive them. Most of the time everyone got stuck and they would have to call a team to pull everyone out. In the winter time everyone just put their cars away and went by sled. His son Larry was born while they lived at Buford and Otto was born in town.

At that time George Thomas was the foreman at the Bar Bell. He remembered that back then everyone had to get along with their neighbors to survive. That ones life could depend upon their help.

At Buford they skied, hunted, fished, and took people out. They had wood stoves in all the cabins and had to constantly get wood for them. It kept him busy! He put in a water system there and a tank on the hill for gravity feed of water.

After Buford he went into construction. He worked for the oil company and ranches for 30 years. Had contract with Wilson Creek. He owned a cat and a shovel. He built on locations and worked on the pipelines.

They bought a ranch down river and for ten years raised charolais cattle. He liked them because they were all white or cream. He did cat work for Phillips and Wheeler and from them bought a pure bred bull. He took to sales in Denver, Idaho, and Wyoming. He later got 50 head of sheep as his sons were interested in them. Otto did well with sheep and after Otto left he sold suffolk and bought rambouillets.

He loved his dog whose name was Banjo. He had gotten the dog for Otto, but he son often was gone, and he finally said he would just keep Banjo with him and Otto gave him the dog.

He then retired, sold his ranch, and came to town. At that time the city was trying to get water works which he became very interested in. He later became Mayor of Meeker and worked with Governor Lamb. He thought that the Governor really helped the town.

He was most proud of his work with helping Meeker. He got grants for Meeker, the streets and a sewer plants. Helped to build the Jr. High. Money back then came from the Exon.

A History of Buford, Colorado

In the early days everyone had a milk cow. It was mostly agricultural. He remembered the milk cows and how everyone would take them to pasture up on the Mesa to graze. Then the milk would be sold to Barrett Creamery.

He loved mules. His father used to use them to farm with. The mules always knew when it was noon. He thought they were harder workers and smarter than horses. Here he looked for one and got one at a dinner at Fritzlan's. There was a man there with a horse trailer and when he was walking out he saw them. He went over and asked him about them. He was from Missouri. He got the mule out and Claude bought it. He named it Shami, his Missouri mule. He loved to ride it and said it saved him from having hip surgery. He had the mule 13 years. He used to ride him around the airport in Meeker which was 5 miles. His doctor asked him what he had been doing to help his hip so much and he said "ride my mule". The doctor told him to go home and keep riding."



Claude Shultz

A History of Buford, Colorado

People from the area remember Buford and have said, that many a ride was taken going in to get the mail there. That the post office boxes were lined up on the south side of the store where the gift store is now. During the time the Grove family had the store they remembered there being dollar slot machines there as well.



(The attached log home onto the Buford Store was presumably by the Grove family, though in later years the Tucker family remodeled it.)

Found in The Meeker Herald were the following obituaries:

August 8, 1963

**Charles W. Grove
County Pioneer Passes Away Sunday**

“Meeker and Rio Blanco county lost another of its pioneer citizens with the death of Charles W. Grove at Pioneers hospital on Sunday of this week. Mr. Grove became ill about four months ago and was taken to Grand Junction where he underwent surgery on April 26 and his condition gradually became worse from then on. He was taken to Pioneers hospital on the 11th of July where he grew steadily weaker until the end came on Sunday.

Charles William Grove, the son of Edwin P. and Fannie E. Grove was born at Jamesport, Missouri on January 3, 1883. His family moved to Salida when he was a small boy and lived there until Charles was 12 or 13 years of age. He then accompanied his father to the White river valley, making the trip by covered wagon. His father homesteaded on Flag creek the ranch which long since has been known as the LaGrange place.

Two years later his mother and the other children joined them at the ranch. The family later moved to town and the children attended the Meeker schools. At an early age Mr. Grove learned the plastering and brick laying trade and many buildings and fireplaces in this valley have been built by this fine craftsman. He helped to build the telephone line from Rifle to Meeker and later operated the switchboard which was then located at Strehlke's Drug store in the building now occupied by Hap's Barber shop, a part of the Meeker Hotel.

He was united in marriage to Miss Clara Metzger on February 14, 1906 and the young couple established their home in Meeker. Mr. Grove was working for the Meeker Mercantile company at that time and continued in their employ until five years later when the store closed. Mr. Grove then started for himself in the plastering and masonry business, following this trade until he went to work for William Laidlow who had purchased the Meeker electric light plant. Mr. Laidlow was a reserve officer and was called to active duty in World War I. He decided to sell the plant and it was purchased by Mr. Grove who took over and operated the light plant until the franchise ran out and the town voted to buy and take over the plant.

A History of Buford, Colorado

The family then moved to California for a year and after returning Mr. Grove again followed his old trade, at this time helping with the building of the present junior high building which was then the Rio Blanco county high school. In 1936 he and Mrs. Grove purchased the Buford store, cabins, and filling station and Mr. Grove was appointed postmaster for the Buford office. They continued to operate this business until 1945 when they sold out to their son and moved back to Meeker.

While Mr. Grove was semi-retired at that time he was continually called on for masonry and stone work, building the fire places at the Barbour ranch on Marvine creek; Sleepy Cat lodge and many others in the White river valley. Though retired he always kept busy and had led a very active and useful life and was a devoted husband and father.

He was an active member of the Odd Fellow Lodge for many years, being a Past Noble Grand and on the building committee for years. He was also a member of the White River Grange. He was confirmed a member of St. James church in 1898 and was a life long member of that church.

The deceased leaves to mourn his passing his life partner, Clara; one son, Ralph Grove of Glenwood Springs; one daughter, Mrs. Claude Shults of Meeker; a sister Mrs. Nellie C. Miller of Chico, California; two brothers, Henry Grove of Williamsburg, New Mexico and Glen Grove of Shelton, Washington; also four grand children and three great grand children; also a host of friends throughout the White river valley.

Funeral services were held Wednesday morning from St. James church for this pioneer citizen of our community, with Rev. W. O. Richards officiating. Interment was in Highland cemetery with Briggs Mortuary in charge of arrangements. The pallbearers were: John Rabska, John Dole, Matt Villa, Ralph Tagert, Walter Brown and Albert Hitchens."

February 6, 1964

Ralph W. Grove Passed Away Last Sunday in Denver

"The Meeker community was shocked and saddened on Monday of this week when it became known that Ralph Grove had passed away the day before in a Denver hospital. Mr. Grove had been ill for about a month and a little more than a week ago was having some dental work done in Glenwood Springs. When he became seriously ill he was first taken to the hospital in Glenwood; then last week-end he was removed to Grand Junction. When doctors at that point were unable to determine the cause of his illness he was flown to Denver where he passed away Sunday afternoon.

Ralph William Grove, the son of Charles W. and Clare A. Grove, a pioneer family of this community, was born November 27, 1906 in Meeker. He grew up in this community and attended our Meeker schools. After finishing high school he entered the University of Colorado at Boulder where he graduated with a degree in engineering. While in college Ralph became a member of the theta Xi fraternity.

Ralph was united in marriage to Miss Florence Roberta Jones at Denver on February 22, 1934. After graduating from CU Mr. Grove entered the government service with the Soil Conservation Service and was assigned to the Pueblo district as civil engineer. He was stationed there from 1935 to 1945, when Mr. Grove and his family returned to the White river valley to make their home.

Mr. and Mrs. Grove bought the Buford store and the tourist cabins at that location. Together they ran the business and Mr. Grove continued his work with the Soil Conservation service, being in charge of the engineering work for the Meeker SCS office.

In 1958 the SCS combined the Craig and Glenwood Springs district offices into a larger SCS area office. Mr. Grove was made Area Engineer for the Glenwood office and he and Mrs. Grove sold their Buford holdings and moved to Glenwood Springs to make their home. Ralph was the District Area Engineer for the Glenwood Springs office which took in most of the Soil Conservation districts in Northwest Colorado. He continued in this capacity until his recent illness and death. Ralph was never robust and he had to be careful of his health most of his life; but these physical ailments never deterred his ambition or his determination

to do a fine job on any work to which he was assigned. He was a most capable engineer and many SCS projects will serve as a monument to his career. He was of quiet disposition but always friendly and liked and respected by all who knew him.

The deceased leaves to mourn his death his beloved wife Florence; two children, Charles William Grove of Carbondale, and a daughter, Carol A. Grove of Glenwood Springs; his mother, Mrs. Clara A Grove of Meeker; his sister, Mrs. Dorothy Shults of Meeker, and three grandchildren as well as a host of friends both in Meeker and Glenwood Springs.

The remains were returned to his old home town and funeral services were held on Wednesday afternoon from St. James church with Rev. W. O. Richards officiating. After the church service the remains were taken in charge by Rio Blanco Lodge No. 80 with full Masonic honors accorded this brother Mason at Highland cemetery. The deceased was a member of Rio Blanco Lodge No. 80; Meeker Royal Arch Chapter and Meeker Commandery. A Commandery escort in uniform attended the funeral services."

Highland Cemetery, Meeker, Colorado

GROVE CHARLES & CLARA RV #1 C 8

GROVE E. P. HIGHLAND B 11 1

GROVE RALPH RV #1 C 13

On September 6, 1958 Ralph and Florence Grove sold the Buford Store and Post Office with all that it included to Harry A. and Ethel E. Tucker. The Tucker family has now owned and operated the Buford Store and Lodge for over 50 years. The Post Office is no longer there but, the memories of its' existence are in the memories of the families who live here today. Mr. and Mrs. Tucker have brought what Offerle and the Grove families made into the future. Still a historic sight, with the original log home, cabins, and old time flavor the Tucker family and the next generation will carry the dream of Buford forward.

To learn more about this family, where they came from and what they did before Buford is written below. Also, their contributions to Rio Blanco County and the White River valley.

A History of Buford, Colorado

Ethel "T" Tucker was born February 19, 1915 in Bennett, Colorado to Gilbert H. and Lelia Irene Shoemaker. According to the 1920 United States Federal Census the following information was found:

1920 United States Federal Census
Laporte, Larimer, Colorado
Roll T625-166
Page 5 A
Enumeration District 145
Image 40

Shoemaker Gilbert H., age 39 years, born about 1881, born Kansas, father born Indiana, mother born Indiana, occupation Labor construction
Shoemaker Lelia A., wife, age 33 years, born about 1887, born Missouri, father born Ohio, mother born Indiana
Shoemaker Delbert, son, age 7, born July 22, 1912, born Colorado, (married Virginia M. Stryker.)
Shoemaker Zola Lorretta, age 6, born August 29, 1913, born Colorado, (she died 1993 in Greeley, Weld County, Colorado.)
Shoemaker Ethel Estella, age 4 10/12, born February 19, 1915, born Colorado (married Harry Alva Tucker in 1941 and she died November 2, 1991.)
Shoemaker Mary E., age 3 3/12, born about 1914, born Colorado

Brother and son to the above family was, Joseph Leslie Shoemaker was not on the 1920 census as he was born March 8, 1921. (he married Anna M. Duncan.)

Gilbert H. Shoemaker was found on the 1900 United States Federal Census. His families information is as follows:

1900 United States Federal Census
Centerville, Linn, Kansas

Roll T623-487

Page 11 B

Enumeration District 109

Shoemaker Joseph B, born February 1836, age 64, born Indiana, father born Virginia, mother born Indiana, occupation farmer

Shoemaker Martha E, born February 1849, age 51, born Indiana, father born Ohio, mother born Ohio

Shoemaker Gilbert H., son, born 1880, age 19, born Kansas

Gilbert H. Shoemaker married Lelia Irene Eachus in about 1911. She was daughter to James Allen Eachus and Mary Elizabeth Allison. Gilbert Haven Shoemaker was born August 29, 1880 in Centerville, Kansas and died August 24, 1953 in Greeley, Colorado. Leila Irene Eaches was born January 18, 1886 in New Madrid, Missouri and died May 24, 1973 in Greeley, Colorado.

A History of Buford, Colorado



Ethel Estella Shoemaker graduated from Greeley High School, Greeley, Colorado in 1932. The above, is a picture of her at this time.

Ethel Shoemaker graduated in the National Honor Society and was with the Girls Athletic Association. She was well liked and excelled in her schooling. After High School she attended Colorado State College of Education, at Greeley, graduating with a lifetime certificate in teaching, in 1937.



(Ethel "T" Tucker)

A History of Buford, Colorado



(Civil Aeronautics Administration Air Traffic Control Trainees)
(Kansas City, Missouri #3 February 4, 1943)

In the above picture “T” is in the second row second from the right. In her obituary it was stated that after the “outbreak of World War II, she obtained her aircraft control tower license and operated the control towers in Kansas City, Kansas.”

Harry Alva Tucker II was born August 2, 1915 in Denver, Denver, Colorado. His father was Harry Alva Tucker the first and his mother was Hazel Amelia Tebeau. Harry Tucker I was son to William F. Tucker born about 1868 and who died June 26, 1905. Harry and Hazel Tucker were divorced sometime between 1918 and 1920. Harry A. Tucker I died in Michigan in 1936. It is believed he is buried in the Fremont Cemetery, Denver, Colorado. The family of Harry A. Tucker II, can be found on the 1920 United States Federal Census.

1920 United States Federal Census

Denver, Denver, Colorado

Enumeration District: 6

Roll: T625-158

Page: 3B

Image: 74

Line: 47

Tebeau, Charles E., head of household, age 50, born in Missouri, father and mother born in Missouri, cigar maker, owns own store.

Tebeau, Tillie, wife, age 42, born in Colorado, father and mother born in Germany.

Tebeau, Laverne, daughter, age 10 born in Colorado

Higdon, Alice, daughter, age 15, married, born in Colorado.

Higdon, Roland A., son-in-law, age 21, born in Ohio, truck coal driver.

Higdon, Roland, grandson, age 2/12, born in Colorado.

Tucker, Hazel, daughter, age 21, divorced, born in Colorado, leaf stripper, cigar store owned by father.

Tucker, Harry A., grandson, age 4 4/12, born in Colorado.

Tucker, Charlotte, granddaughter, age 2 1/12, born in Michigan.

1930 United States Federal Census

Denver, Denver, Colorado

Enumeration District: 3

Roll: 232

Page: 19 of 25

Line: 4

Tebeau, Charles head of household, age 60, born in Missouri, father and mother born in Missouri, value \$2,500, retired worked as a truck driver delivering coal. Tebeau, Tillie, wife, age 53, born in Colorado, father and mother born in Germany.

Higdon, Roland A., head of household, age 31, estimated birth about 1899, born in Ohio, truck driver delivering coal.

Higdon, Alice I., wife, age 28, born in Colorado.

Higdon, Roland L., son, age 10, born in Colorado.

Higdon, Charles D., son, age 8, born in Colorado.

Higdon, William G., son, age 4 11/12, born in Colorado.

Higdon, Robert E., son, age 3 6/12, born in Colorado.

Tucker, Harry A., grandson, (would have been his nephew but is listed as grandson due to Tebeau living beside them?), age 14, born Colorado.

Tucker, Charlotte H. (?), again listed as granddaughter for the same reason, age 12, born Michigan.

It is known that Roland L. Higdon was born October 3, 1919 and died February 14, 1993. His last known address was 80002 Arvada, Jefferson County, Colorado. What became of the other Higdon family members is unknown. It is known that Hazel Tebeau/Tucker was listed on the obituary of her father with the last name of Nicholson and that she was living at McGill, Nevada. It is believed there was a son born which would be a half brother to Harry Tucker named Donald Nicholson. Hazel Nicholson died August 20, 1981 in White Pine, Nevada.

Charles David Tebeau was grandfather to Harry A. Tucker II and held a position of great importance in his life, during his younger years. His mother Hazel was very young at his birth and though a daughter was also born to her and Harry A. Tucker I, she was divorced on the census of 1920. His father Harry A.

Tucker died in Michigan December 6, 1936. Thus, his grandfather basically raised him and in later years his aunt and uncle. Mr. Tebeau, was born July 2, 1869 in St. Joseph, Buchanan County, Missouri. It states that until the year of 1886 he lived at 1206 Grand Street, St. Joseph, Missouri, and that in 1889 he lived at 1208 Grand Street, St. Joseph, Missouri. He moved to Denver in 1890 and lived in New Haven, Denver, Arapahoe County, Colorado until 1937. His obituary states the following:

**Obituary: Denver, Colorado Post
February 11, 1946**

Charles Tebeau of 4369 Utica St., husband of Matilda (Tillie) Tebeau, father of Hazel Nickolson, McGill, Nevada, Alice Higdon, Denver, and LaVerne Darling, Kennewick, Washington; also survived by ten grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Rosary, Tuesday 8 P.M. at the drawing room. Requiem mass Wednesday 9 A. M., Holy Family Church, to Mount Olivet.

Buried in Block 15, Lot 8, row 29, Grave 9

His father was Antoine Tebuea born February 15, 1817 in Florissant, St. Louis County, Missouri and his mother was Sylvania Gabriel Aubuchon who was born June 30, 1829 in Florissant, St. Louis County, Missouri. He married Matilda Larche on December 28, 1892 in Denver, Arapahoe County, Colorado. She was born June 13, 1876.

Mr. Harry Alva Tucker II graduated from North High School, Denver,
Colorado June 1934.



(Mr. Harry Alva Tucker)

A History of Buford, Colorado

Mr. Tucker was involved in football and played center. After High School, Harry Tucker also attended the Colorado State College of Education at Greeley. He also received a teaching certificate and it is here that he met Ethel T. Shoemaker.



(Mr. Tucker, College Years)

A History of Buford, Colorado

Mr. Harry Tucker then went into the Army/Airforce before they became separate branches. He served in WW II and the Korean War. Below is a picture of Harry Alva Tucker II during his service. In later years he worked as a recreation director at the VA Hospital in Denver, Colorado.



A History of Buford, Colorado

Ethel Estella "T" Shoemaker married Harry Alva Tucker on July 26, 1941, in Las Vegas, Nevada. Together they had sons Harry A. Tucker III and Thomas T. Tucker. Both sons were born in Denver, Colorado.



(A early picture of Harry Tucker, Harry Tucker Jr., and "T")



(Harry "Chips" Tucker Jr. and Tom Tucker)



(Christmas with "T", "Chips", and Tom)

A History of Buford, Colorado



("T")

The summer of 1958 brought many changes to the Tucker family. Anxious for a change in their lives and especially that of their sons, they decided to begin life in a different area. They bought the Buford Store and Lodge on September 6, 1958.

A History of Buford, Colorado

This Deed, made this 6th day of September in the year of our Lord

one thousand nine hundred and Fifty-eight between

RALPH W. GROVE and FLORENCE R. GROVE

of the County of Rio Blanco and State of Colorado, of the first part, and

HARRY A. TUCKER and ETHEL E. TUCKER

City and
of the County of Denver and State of Colorado, of the second part;

Witnesseth, That the said part 1st of the first part, for and in consideration of the sum of Ten Dollars and other good and valuable consideration to the said part 1st of the first part in hand paid by the said parties of the second part, the receipt whereof is hereby confessed and acknowledged, the said parties of the second part, and by these presents do grant, bargain, sell, convey and warrant unto the said parties of the first part, and to their heirs and assigns forever, the said parties of the first part, their assigns and the heirs and assigns of such survivor forever, all the following described lot or parcel of land

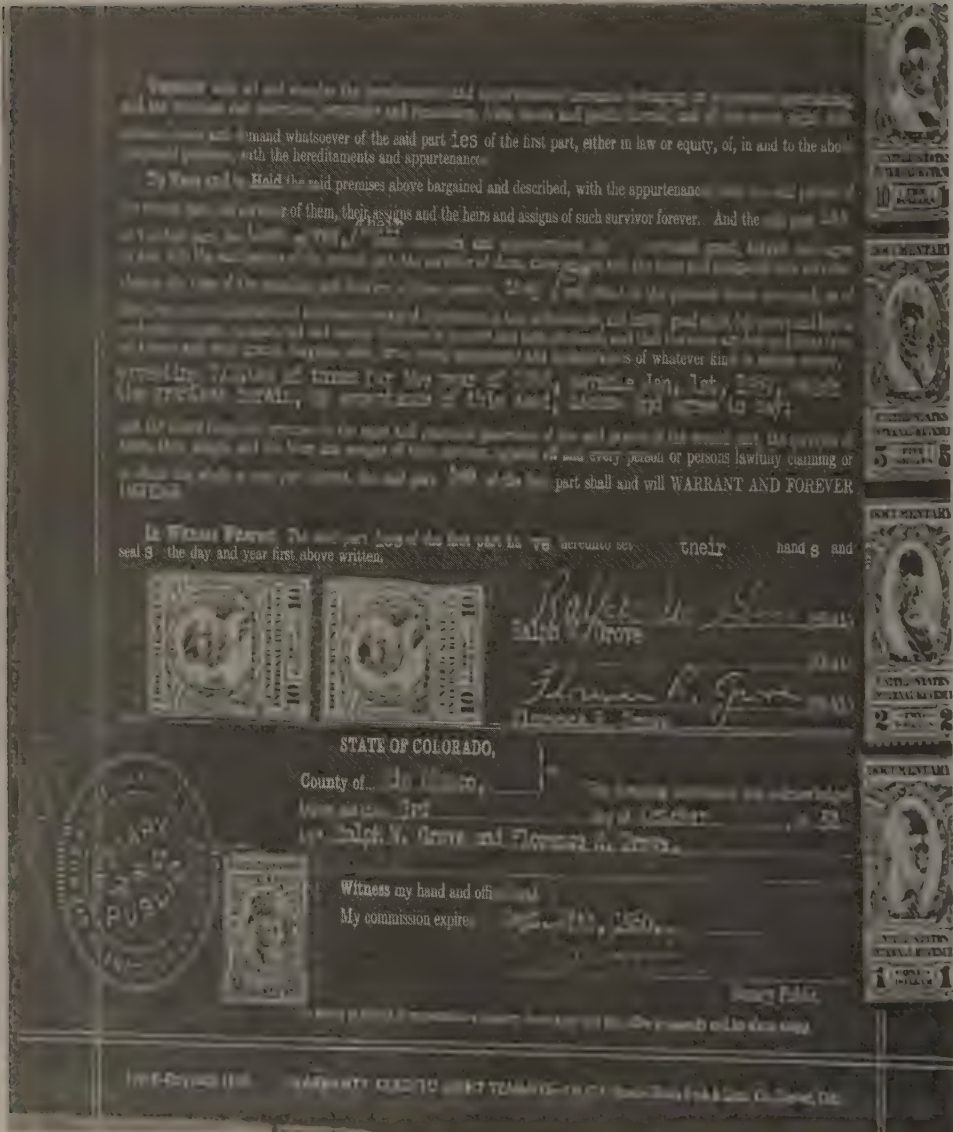
and State of Colorado, to-wit:
The North half of the Northeast quarter (NW¹/4) and Southeast quarter of the Northeast quarter (SE¹/4) of Section Eight (8), and the northwest quarter of the Northwest quarter (NW¹/4) of Section Nine (9), in Township One (1) South, Range Ninety One (91) West of the 6th P. M., Colorado, containing 160 acres, more or less, according to the U. S. Government Survey thereof;

Also, the Southwest quarter of the Southwest quarter (SW¹/4) of Section Four (4), in Township One (1) South, Range 91 West of the 6th P. M., Colorado, containing 40 acres, more or less, according to the U. S. Government Survey thereof;

Together with all improvements on the above described lands, and all ditch, water, irrigation, and reservoir rights appertaining and belonging thereto and therewith; SUBJECT, HOWEVER, to all reservations to the United States as contained in the patents to said lands; EXCEPTING and RESERVING, HOWEVER, from the above-described lands, unto the grantors herein, their heirs and assigns, forever, an undivided one-half of all oil, gas and other minerals in, on and under said lands, and the same are not reserved to the United States,-- it being the intent of the parties that the same be conveyed, and there is hereby conveyed, unto the grantors herein, an undivided one-half of all oil, gas and other minerals in, on and under said lands, and the same are not reserved to the United States.

DOCUMENTARY

A History of Buford, Colorado



A History of Buford, Colorado

Recorded at 11:57 o'clock A.M.,
1953

THIS INDENTURE, Made this 6th day of September
in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and Fifty-Eight
between

HARRY A. TUCKER and ETHEL E. TUCKER

whose address IS BUFORD, COLORADO;

part ITS of the first part, and the Public Trustee of

Rio Blanco County;

, in the State of Colorado, party of the second part, Witnesseth:

THAT, WHEREAS, The said

Harry A. Tucker and Ethel E. Tucker

executed their one promissory note bearing even date herewith, for the principal sum of
EIGHT THOUSAND and No/100 ----- Dollars.

payable to the order of Ralph W. Grove and Florence R. Grove, in joint tenancy with
right of survivorship, and not as tenants in common;
whose address is Glenwood Springs, Colorado;

January 1st, 1974

----- after the date thereof, with interest thereon from the date thereof
at the rate of 4 percent per annum, payable annually, with the first payment of
the said sum of \$8,000.00 payable Jan. 1, 1960, and thereafter on Jan. 1st of each
year of the term hereof; Said principal sum being due and payable at
the rate of \$1,000.00 annually with the first of said payments of \$2000.00 being
due and payable on Jan. 1st, 1961 and with a like sum due and payable on the first
day of January of each year of the term hereof, until said principal sum and the
interest thereon as aforesaid are fully paid;
Principal and interest payable at First National Bank, Glenwood Springs, Colo.

AND WHEREAS, The said parties of the first part are desirous of securing the payment of the
principal and interest of said promissory note in whose hands soever the said note or any of them may be.

NOW, THEREFORE, The said parties of the first part have granted, sold and conveyed and by these presents do grant, sell, convey and confirm unto the said party of the second part in trust forever
the following described property, situate in the County of Rio Blanco, State of Colorado, to-wit:

The S.W. 1/4 of Section 4; the N.W. 1/4 and S.W. 1/4 of Section 8; and the
S.W. 1/4 of Section 9, all in Township 1 South, Range 91 West of the 6th P. M.,
Colorado, containing 200 acres, more or less, according to the U. S. Government
survey thereof; together with all improvements thereon, and all buildings thereon and wherever
located, to all reservations to the United States as contained in the
title to said lands; and to a further reservation of an undivided one-half
of the oil, gas and other minerals in, on and under said land.

A History of Buford, Colorado

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the same, together with all and singular the priviledges and appurtenances, thereunto

by prior encumbrances, principal or interest, if any, or in case default shall be made in or in case of
of any of the terms, conditions, covenants, or agreements herein contained, the said party here-

s situated, it shall and may be lawful for said party of the second part to sell and dispose of the same (en masse or
in separate parcels, as said Public Trustee may think best), and all the right, title and interest of said parties of

the first part, their heirs or assigns therein, at public auction at the front door of the

of Rio Blanco, State of Colorado, or on said premises, for the highest and best price the same will bring in cash, four weeks' public
having been previously given of the time and place of such sale, by advertisement, weekly, in some newspaper of
general circulation at that time published in said County of Rio Blanco, a copy of which notice shall be mailed

from the date of the first publication of such notice to each of the parties of the first part, and to each of the

such person or persons appearing to be the owner of the property, and to the county and state of Colorado, at
at, and to make and give to the purchaser or purchasers of such property at such sale, a
ates in writing describing such property purchased, and the sum or sums paid therefor, and the
er or purchasers (or other persons entitled thereto) shall be entitled to a deed or deeds therefor,

the Trustee shall, upon demand by the person or
or upon demand by the person or
the time for redemption having
purchased, which said deed or
and delivered by the said Public
to such deed, as grantee, the said

first part, their heirs and assigns therein and shall recite the sum or sums for which the said property

of sale therein contained, and to the sale of the same

legal holder of said note the principal and interest due on said note according to the tenor and effect thereof,

and all moneys advanced by such beneficiary or legal holder of said note for insurance, taxes and assessments, with

interest thereon at 4½ per cent per annum, rendering the overplus, if any, unto the said parties of the first part,

both in law and equity, against the said parties of the first part, their heirs and assigns, and all

of the first part, their heirs and assigns, and all

a release deed be required, it is agreed that the parties of the first part, their heirs or assigns, will pay
the expense thereof.

Soon after settling at Buford, Mrs. "T" Tucker began teaching at the Meeker School District. Mr. Tucker also began working as a physical education teacher in the Meeker School, though later resigned from his position to focus on the Buford Store and Lodge. Mrs. Tucker would take her "vacation" in the fall so that she could work at Buford during hunting season and also during her summer times off from the school. Many long hours spent at both professions. "T" Tucker gave 27 years working with the Meeker School District. Most remember her for her love of the kindergarten children. Not only did she teach the kindergarten children but, was there throughout the years to teach their children. She was greatly loved by all who knew her. In her time here she went out of her way to be kind, to listen, to help those who needed her. Memories of her stopping on her way home to Buford to drop off copies of school work, to those who would soon attend school, so that they would have a "step" up in their lives, are remembered fondly by many. She cared deeply about education and helping everyone she possibly could. She was a good friend to many and loved by all who knew her. To this day, so many years after her passing, she is thought of kindly and with fond memories.

A History of Buford, Colorado



RE-1 SCHOOL BUS DRIVER MARIE RADER and her upriver bus students presented T Tucker with a little gift of appreciation Tuesday morning. Mrs. Tucker is retiring from her teaching job at the kindergarten this year after 25 years of service. T drove most of that quarter of a century from Buford but the last few years has been riding the bus with the students — Herald Photo

This is a clipping from The Meeker Herald showing the school children who rode the up-river bus. Several of the children attended Mrs. Tucker's last kindergarten.

These Teachers Are Special . . .



Carolyn Cooley, Charles Holmes, Shirley Barone, T Tucker, Maxine Holland, and Justine Irwin. Last week ended, more or less, the teaching careers of these six Meeker teachers who have put in 165 years of school service, an average of 27½ years apiece.

Other teachers will come to take their positions in our school system and will be judged accordingly. However, we, as parents, will have lasting memories of the caring concerns these teachers have shared with our children, along with the education process that has influenced their students' lives and touched so many others in our community.

What more can you say? Much, much more we know. Putting it all into perspective, these teachers have lived up to and exceeded the reputation as outstanding teachers.

We take note of this, realizing it is only a small token of appreciation, but it is one of the few ways the public can say "thanks" to these six retirees who have served so well and so unselfishly over the years. Thanks, all of you, for a great job!

A History of Buford, Colorado



(A family photo taken right before Mrs. Tucker passed away. Diane Tucker, daughter-in-law not in the picture due to taking the picture.)

Harry and Ethel “T” Tucker had two sons, Harry A.(Chips) Tucker Jr. or the III and Tom Tucker. The eldest son “Chips” was married to Marcia and together they had daughter Andrea. Andrea has two sons, Devine and Tayven. His second wife, Lori and he had Janie and Jodi. Tom and his wife Diane have daughter Christie who is married to John Vattano with daughter Lauren. They also have two sons, Steve and Mark.

Harry “Chips” Tucker went to Westpoint. He served as a judge for a time and now works in Grand Junction, Colorado as a lawyer.

Tom and Diane Tucker both went to college in Ft. Collins and have a residence there as well as rental properties. Tom also became a realtor working out of Ft. Collins. They purchased property several miles above Buford in 1988. He took over the Guide and Outfitting business from his father, which the still manage here in Rio Blanco County, Colorado.

On November 2, 1991 Mrs. "T" Tucker passed away here in Meeker, Colorado. In the Meeker Herald her obituary stated:

November 14, 1991

Services Held For Ethel Tucker

"Memorial services were held last Thursday, November 7, for longtime Meekerite, Ethel Tucker who passed away November 2, 1991 of an apparent heart attack. She was a much loved, dedicated Meeker kindergarten teacher for many years.

Ethel "T" Tucker was born February 19, 1915 in Bennett, Colorado to Gilbert and Lelia Shoemaker. She was raised on the eastern slope of Colorado and attended Colorado State College of Education at Greeley, graduating in 1937. At Greeley she lettered in track and tennis and was granted a lifetime teaching certificate. "T" taught at several schools before marrying Harry Tucker in 1941.

With the outbreak of World War II, she obtained her aircraft control tower license and operated the control towers in Kansas City, Kansas. When the war was over she moved with her family to Denver where she taught school and worked extensively with the Girl Scouts of America.

In 1958, the family purchased Buford Store and Lodge, which has been her home since. After arriving in Meeker, "T" was soon teaching again and spent 27 years with the Meeker School District, retiring in 1984. Her great love was kindergarten, which she taught for 26 years. Many of her former students had children who also attended kindergarten with Mrs. Tucker.

Summers were spent running the Buford Store and Lodge. It was here that she met and became friends with people from throughout the United States and

A History of Buford, Colorado

the world. "T" loved the outdoors and the mountains of the upper White River Valley. She was often consulted by area fishermen about which fly was best for that day. "T" was a special person who had a wonderful way of instilling confidence and love in all her students as well as her friends and co-workers.

She is survived by her husband, Harry of Meeker and two sons; Harry Jr. of Grand Junction and Tom of Fort Collins; a granddaughter Andrea Tucker of Craig; 2 brothers, Del Shoemaker of Fort Collins and Joe Shoemaker of Greeley; one sister, Zola Shoemaker of Greeley; and 6 grandchildren."



(Harry and "T" Tucker)

A History of Buford, Colorado



(Buford Store and Lodge March 26, 1983.)

A History of Buford, Colorado



(Mr. and Mrs. Tucker March 26, 1983.)



(Warm weather; Mr. and Mrs. Tucker, Buford Store and Lodge.)

A History of Buford, Colorado



(A business built together.)

A History of Buford, Colorado



(1986 Mr. Tucker's Balloon Ride.)

A History of Buford, Colorado



(Mr. and Mrs. Harry A. Tucker the fall of 1988.)

A history from The Meeker Herald, submitted and written by Justine C. Irwin as well as the following photo is as follows:

**The Buford Store:
From Yesterday, Remembered Today**

"Buford's actually a hundred-seven years old this year", Harry Tucker said. "But we're only celebrating the last hundred."

Tucker and his family have owned and operated the Buford Store for nearly forty years, having bought the business in 1956 from Ralph Grove. Tucker's tenure is the longest of any proprietor.

"There's not much written about the history of the upper White River,"

A History of Buford, Colorado

Tucker contends, "lots about the lower area. So we decided to build a museum and to collect artifacts from the Buford area."...

The museum collections which have been gathered from the neighbors, will be housed in an 85 year old log building. The structure was given to Buford by Dirck and Sondra Garcia of Meeker and is a log building that has been in the Garcia's family for many years. It became necessary to tear the building down to make room for a new garage. The logs were systematically dismantled, numbered, moved to the Buford Store, and reassembled.

"We've got artifacts of every kind; old agricultural equipment, cream separators, and antique slot machines," Tucker says...

Tucker also has collected and quickly relates old stories told by early pioneers such as Guy Steely, who was one of Theodore Roosevelt's hunting guides. Having come to Buford originally on the back of his mother's horse. Steely regularly told the story of the winter when according to the friendly Ute's who lived in the area, "the snow grew two ponies deep" and killed elk and buffalo on the Pot Hole, a meadow just east of Buford, creating a wildlife graveyard. A buffalo skull found there is now in the Denver Museum of Natural History. Another elk and buffalo graveyard was known to be in the Trappers Lake area.

Tucker also recounts stories credited to Ben Long and Jim Ward, who were the "last of the real mountain men." In their later years, they tended and moved sheep camps up and down the valley.

The history of the Buford community is no less fascinating. Located at the confluence of the north and south forks of the White River, Buford was named for Confederate General John Buford by Mrs. Cloherty, a rancher's wife and school teacher, whose class was studying the American Civil War.

The life line of the community was the Meeker-Buford Stage line, which used big freight wagons to haul supplies, groceries, and mail. Upriver housewives shipped butter, cream, and produce to Meeker to be sold through Ambrose Oldland's general merchandise store.

The Buford Post Office was established about 1889 on the Budge Ranch on the South Fork, now part of the ranch owned by Robert Buckles. It was later moved to the Cloherty Ranch on the North Fork, later burned down.

In 1899, John Rice Bartlett purchased the property and his wife assumed the duties of postmaster. Mail was carried tri-weekly by a number of contractors. In 1914, the route was changed from the south side of the river to the hilly north side and was continued on up the river to the Marvine community.

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On a tour of the store grounds, Tucker pointed out the remnants of an old bridge crossing visible on the south bank of the river. Until the new county bridge was built, this crossing was in daily use.

Change came regularly to Buford. In 1921, the area was opened to homesteading. Lawrence L. Offerle, who had come to Meeker in 1910 to work for the Hugus Co. was convinced by Kirk Shaw to file on river front property at what is today the junction of County Road 8 and the Buford-New Castle Road 17. Across the present bridge and behind the hill lies County Road 10 leading to South Fork Canyon.

Offerle opened a store in an old log cow shed, one of several buildings left behind by previous settlers. Kirk Shaw moved in a portable sawmill to help get logs for a larger store room and a second story for bedrooms. The fourth class post office was moved in; a filling station, and cabins were added later.

By 1927, the Buford-New Castle Road had been improved from a narrow trail to a wagon road. It became a major route used by settlers and mail carriers between the railroad at New Castle and the White River valley.

Offerle's store thrived, serving settlers 10 miles in every direction, and catering to a rapidly increasing tourist trade.

Tourists required cabins. The first cabin known to be on the property was built of slab logs about 1908 by settler Marsh. Known today, as Cabin number two, it is still available for rent. Other log cabins were built as early as 1915, but for Mr. Offerle, cabin building became difficult, especially when it was discovered that a boundary dispute indicated the cabins had been built on land belonging to another. However, the conflict was later resolved and the cabins remained, clustered around a grassy court. The newest cabin is a modern modular unit located north of the store and the house in which Tucker lives.

As we strolled the property, Tucker recalled the good years when he, his wife, Ethel, and their two sons, Tom and Harry, operated the store. Ethel also taught kindergarten for Meeker School District Re-1 until her retirement. She died a few years later.

As we walk, Tucker talks about how the area has changed through the years. The Bartlett family history shows that the ranch owned by John Rice and Alice Bartlett was sold in 1929 to Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Eleanor Roosevelt was a regular visitor to Buford and occasionally wrote articles for the Meeker Herald. Tucker recounts that Elliot Roosevelt once owned the stone house on the Wix property across the road near Bel-Aire State Wildlife Area. Minnewa Bell,

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Elliot's former wife, inherited the Bar Bell. The Bar Bell was later sold to Bricklin, and most recently to Henry Kravis, who renamed the property Westlands. He recounts how teachers from the Buford School around the bend often were boarded at the Buford Store.

Due to Tucker's efforts, the store was accepted for listing on the National Registry of Historic Places in the late 1970's. This year the new Buford museum will house two antique parlor stoves...one from the Fairfield home in Meeker...the other a unique stove purchased from a Nevada brothel. There will be other household items as well.

In spite of his interest in preserving the past, Tucker and his store are ever bit of today. His modern store offers groceries, gasoline, gifts, and greeting cards. It stocks a massive collection of fishing flies and lures for anglers trying their luck at Lake Avery just down the road, or in either of the two forks of the White River. And, of course, there are cabins for rent. The store remains open through hunting season to supply the needs of hunters.

Although the store is no longer an official post office, one can mail a letter in the antique letter box near the cash register. Harry Tucker will always offer you a smile and a tale of days gone by as he rings up your sale on the modern cash register."

On August 4, 2003 a fire broke out in Langlas Draw, several miles up the South Fork of the White River. The fire lasted 1800 hours and was called the Langlas Draw Fire. It was a terrible time for everyone in the community. All lived in fear that the fire would not be controlled and our beautiful valley would look like the devastation to be seen in the higher country around Trappers Lake. Westlands was the center for the fire fighters and their equipment. Buford Store and Lodge became a central point for the firefighters to come to rest, shower, and eat. The local people were so happy to have the firefighters there that food and supplies were brought in daily to help keep the firefighters going. Buford set up tables and chairs borrowed from the local community center, formerly the Buford School house. Food was prepared there and the extras brought in by everyone who had a moment to fix up another dish or dessert. Again, the joining of a small community to help in the saving of the beautiful White River valley.

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Now that Mr. Harry Tucker is 90, the decision was made to turn the running of the Buford Store and Lodge, over to his descendants. His smiling face though, will still be seen, and a story still will be told, as the Tucker family continues at Buford. The Tom Tucker family will be seen often about Buford as the next chapter in the long history of Buford begins. Remodeling and renovations are being done in the restoration and preservation of this historic site.

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(The White River Valley looking east towards Buford. Sleepy Cat mountain on the left in the distance and Buford amongst the trees in the valley.)

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(Old Sleigh on the porch of Buford Store.)

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(Modern gas station at Buford Store and Lodge.)



(Leading to the historic cabins of Buford Store and Lodge.)

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For further information on staying at the historic Buford Store and Lodge and creating memories for yourself, family, or friends, it is provided below. Contact the Tom and Diane Tucker family.

BUFORD STORE AND LODGE

**20474 County Road 8, Meeker, Colorado 81641
970-878-4745.**

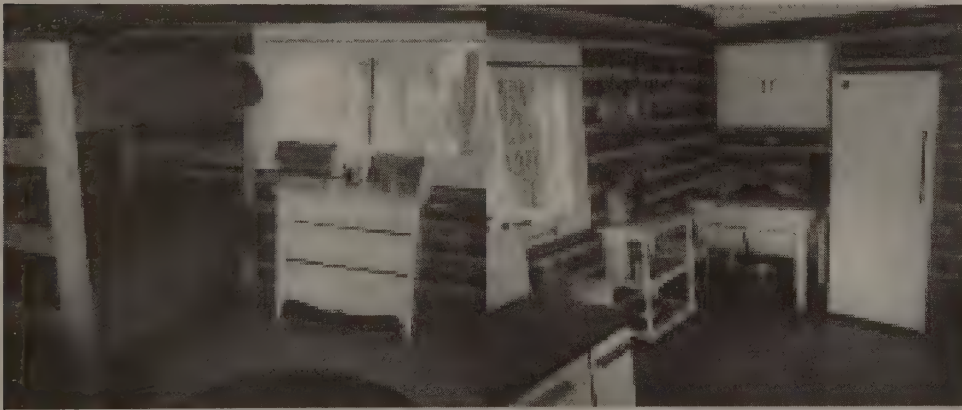
Historic Buford lies on the scenic Flat Tops Byway, and is nestled on the banks of the White River in the White River National Forest, 22 miles east of Meeker, in northwestern Colorado at an elevation of about 7000 feet. The Tucker family has owned the Buford Store and Lodge since 1956. Today the tradition is still being carried on by the Tucker's children and grandchildren.



Ten rustic cabins are fully furnished with a refrigerator, wood burning

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cook stove, electric coffee pots, eating and cooking utensils, and a screened porch or deck. Central modern restrooms and hot showers are just steps away. Two modern cabins also have full baths. RV sites are available. Lodging is open from May 1st to mid-November. All cabins are non- smoking units. Pets are allowed for a additional charge. Corrals are available for horses. Please make advanced arrangements



The immaculate interiors of the private rental cabins. (These cabins are now being renovated and new pictures will be out soon.)



Cabins on the banks of the White River...your own decks and picnic areas.

Activities

Buford is the springboard for excellent lake and stream fishing, hunting, riding, biking or hiking. The well-stocked Buford grocery store also carries sporting goods, gifts and souvenirs, gasoline, fishing and hunting licenses. A museum is on sight displaying historic memorabilia of the area. Restaurant, horse rides, four wheel drive tours and cave tours are nearby.

Camping

Camping Rates: Please call for new rates.

There are RV sites also available with electric and water.

All RV sites are 45 feet or longer with room for slide-outs.
and four are pull-thru sites. Pets are allowed at campsites. Well-behaved dogs or cats are allowed on leashes outdoors.

Facilities

Public payphones are available.

Credit Cards accepted include: Visa, MasterCard, American Express, & Discover.

Hunting

Guided hunts are available for rifle, archery, and black-powder big game hunting seasons for mule deer and elk hunting in Colorado Hunting Areas 23 and 24
Colorado Outfitter License Number: 890

The Tucker family are making ongoing new and exciting changes to the

A History of Buford, Colorado

Buford Store and Lodge. Check with them for family reunions, weddings, guided tours, and in the future they are looking into 4-wheeling and snowmobiling tours as well. The store itself carries sporting goods, beautiful new gift items, handcrafted gifts from the local residents, as well as beverages and food to go!

Call us today for your reservations:

**Tom and Diane Tucker Family
Buford Lodge and Store
20474 County Road 8
Meeker, Colorado 81641
970-878-4745**

Staying at the historic Buford Lodge and visiting the store there is a unique experience. It is a wonderful starting place to explore the many beautiful corners of the upper White River area. There are many back country trails to hike, mountain bike, or 4-wheel on. There are numerous fishing and camping areas to enjoy. Whether it is for fly fishing, hunting, or just a moment to catch a beautiful picture with your camera, the White River valley has about anything anyone would wish to enjoy. In the winter months, catch some time up in the high country for cross country skiing or snowmobiling. As it was in the beginning, it is so today, a country that draws a person to it. A area where every season gives you the most it possibly can. Below are a few pictures of different areas in the upper White River valley.

A History of Buford, Colorado



(The White River Valley overlooking Buford.)



(Lake Avery, about 3 miles from Buford.)

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(4-wheeling in the backcountry near Buford.)



(Fly Fishing)

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(Hunting or taking that photo.)



(A trip up Fawn Creek)

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(Looking toward Sleepy Cat Mountain.)



(Looking up South Fork valley.)

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(A trip to Spring Cave up the South Fork Valley.)



(Buford Ridge and Buford Peak)



(Over looking Trappers Lake)



(Old bridge at Trappers Lake.)

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(Snowmobiling in the high country, towards Meadow Lake.)



(Flying high through the powder.)

The beauty of the upper-Whiter River valley is as magnificent as it was so long ago. It has drawn people from all over the world to enjoy all there is to offer. The things to do in the White River Valley are unending! Come, join us, and enjoy the historic Buford area.

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Buford, Colo.

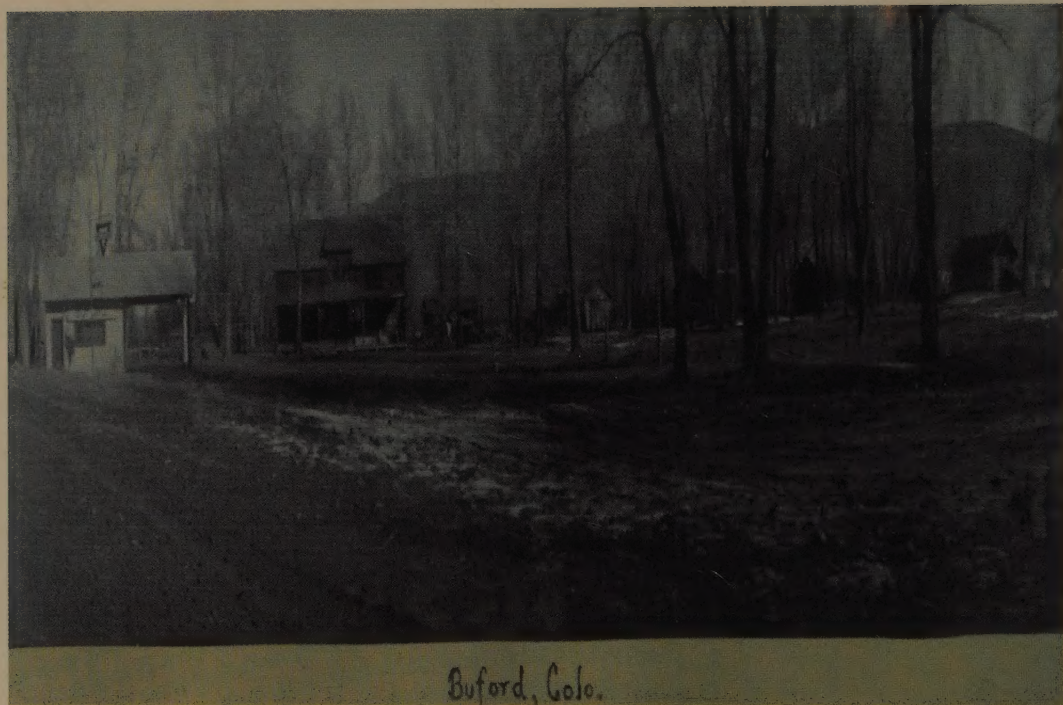
(Early Historic Buford, Colorado)

This is a historic documentation of the founding of the area known as Buford. From the middle 1880's until today, the upper White River area has drawn people from every walk in life. Buford became the "hub in the wheel" for the people who came, made their homes, and the travelers passing by. From the origination of its' name to the owners today, Buford the area and Buford Store and Lodge has made its' mark.



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Buford, Colo.
(Early Historic Buford, Colorado)

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